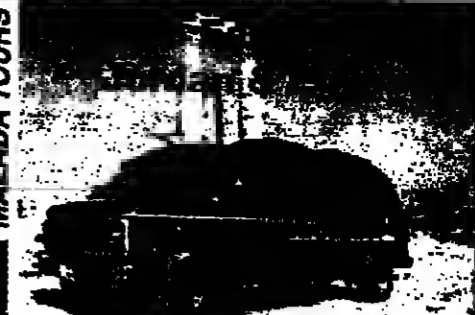


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Border policeman Tzahi Shumaya sits with his head in his hands next to his lawyer while his father (l) tries to comfort him at Jerusalem Magistrate's Court, where he was remanded yesterday for beating Palestinian workers. Stories, Page 2 (AP)

Sharon: Security cabinet 'in the dark' about Hebron

NATIONAL Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon last night charged that neither he nor any other member of the internal security cabinet has any notion of what is in the emerging agreement on Hebron.

"We are totally in the dark," he told members of the National Religious Party's political bureau.

Sharon broke his silence over the Hebron negotiations and joined the ranks of ministers complaining about their exclusion from negotiations. Minister Ze'ev Binyamin Begin (Likud), Minister Yuli Edelstein (Yisrael Ba'aliya) and the two NRP ministers,

SARAH HONIG

Zevulun Hammer and Yitzhak Levy, also have complained about the secrecy surrounding the negotiations.

A number of other Likud ministers have expressed uneasiness over not being made privy to something for which they are expected to vote. This is also the case with the Shas ministers, though their objections have been more low key.

Sharon had let it be known privately that he is fuming over the agreement said to be in the works, and that he has taken umbrage at

not being consulted.

Yesterday, he told the NRP forum that "no one has bothered letting the ministers in on what is going on. No one has any idea about what the negotiators are coming up with. There have been no reports - not only not to the full cabinet, but not even to the inner cabinet. It is as if it is none of our business. No deliberation has ever taken place about Hebron in any ministerial framework."

Sharon complained that "despite all this, we are expected to approve some sort of a *fait accompli* that at some unspecified point

(Continued on Page 18)

Abed-Rabbo warns of violence if current Israeli policy continues

JON IMMANUEL

IF Israeli government policy continues on its current track, it is heading toward "total confrontation," Palestinian Authority Minister Yasser Abed-Rabbo warned yesterday.

"The only alternative that this government leaves for us is to confront this policy of confrontation with all the means that are possible and on all levels. They are not any more adopting a policy of creating normal relations between the Palestinian people and the Israeli people," he told a press conference at the Information Ministry in Ramallah.

Abed-Rabbo, one of the senior negotiators in the Hebron talks, hinted broadly that confrontation could include violence "on a wide scale." It was the clearest warning



Netanyahu.

"I am ready to meet him at any time," said Arafat.

However, Abed-Rabbo, who was clearly representing official PA policy in his planned address, said that a meeting between Netanyahu and Arafat at this time might only make matters worse if it resulted in deadlock.

"It will help in one thing - the deterioration in relations between the two sides." But it was in the context of expanding Israeli settlements, not Hebron deadlock, that Abed-Rabbo warned of total confrontation.

He said the government had taken a policy "to encourage and protect settlers in confiscating and stealing Palestinian land... This government is taking daily steps and decisions of confrontation"

(Continued on Page 18)

IDF: Budget cut won't reduce military strength

DAVID HARRIS

THERE will be no reduction in the armed forces' fighting capability next year, despite the cuts agreed to by the military and the government, senior IDF officers said yesterday.

The 1997 budget already has been decided and will contain a NIS 825 million cut, the officers said during a briefing for journalists in Tel Aviv.

While not going into details of the ongoing negotiations with the Finance Ministry, the officers said relations with the Treasury are now very good.

"We will not get involved in arguments with the Finance Ministry," said one officer. "The only issue on the table is Israel's security needs, and that means the size of the army and the extent of its activities."

The introduction of a multi-year budget to the Knesset alongside the 1997 proposals is impossible for the IDF.

"There are always changes from year to year, even if they aren't necessarily huge," one officer pointed out.

(Continued on Page 18)

Syria would accept US-led summit, Specter says

BATSHEVA TSUR and DOUGLAS DAVIS

ISRAEL would welcome a US-brokered summit between Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu and Syrian President Hafez Assad, government sources in Jerusalem said yesterday evening.

The Syrians have not yet given a positive response to this proposal, the sources added.

Nevertheless, US Senator Arlen Specter, who broached the idea of a summit in his Wednesday talks with Assad in Damascus, said later: "My assessment is that there is a high probability that, if President Clinton issues such an invitation, it will be accepted."

"My sense is that the next step is up to the US," Specter said, before leaving Israel yesterday after shuttling between Jerusalem and Damascus. "I believe President Clinton should invite both Prime Minister Netanyahu and President Assad to the Oval Office to renew the peace process."

Syria is currently open to international diplomatic intervention.

(Continued on Page 18)

Transportation Minister relearns the rules of the road

IT'S never too late to learn the rules of the road, even for Transportation Minister Yitzhak Levy.

"It was interesting," said Levy, who spent yesterday at a "correct driving" course at the National Transportation Institute in Jaffa.

Levy, however, was not on ministerial business.

After racking up eight points on his license for two speeding violations, Levy was ordered to take the course. Before beginning his lesson, Levy said he would also learn for the sake of the general public.

Levy said the course has "great potential" for refreshing drivers.

"We have to think how to exploit [the course], and perhaps to extend the number of students," he said.

He opted to complete the course in two six-hour sessions. Other participants in the course said Levy sat quietly during the lesson and listened intently to the instructor.

(Tim)

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Netanyahu calls for consensus, but not national unity gov't

PRIME Minister Benjamin Netanyahu yesterday put the lid on speculation about a national unity coalition for the time being, while still calling for a broad consensus on what will come after a deal is struck on Hebron.

Speaking at the Likud political bureau meeting, he implored his party's members to support him on the Hebron redeployment. He encountered caustic opposition from Science Minister Ze'ev Binyamin Begin.

Netanyahu stressed that when he speaks of a broad consensus, he does not mean a national unity government.

"I do not hold that in order to achieve a national consensus we need a national unity government," Netanyahu said. "For such a government, we need joint policy guidelines. This would depend on the good will of the opposition. But even without a broad coalition there should be agreement and discussion of our ultimate national goals as we enter what could well be the most critical ever negotiations in the state's history."

If there is any "vital lesson that the experience of the previous few years has taught us, it is that such paramountly important decisions to our existence and future should not

be imposed with a one vote margin. After the Hebron agreement, we will deal with the issue of a permanent agreement, and here it is important to create a consensus between most segments of the nation, although there will always be extremists on either fringe. But I believe that a consensus is possible and we will make a supreme effort to achieve it.

"If we could unify most of the nation behind goals for the coming talks on a permanent agreement, this will send a very clear message to the other side," Netanyahu said.

On Hebron, Netanyahu told bureau members that "if the security of the Jewish community is assured, there will be an agreement. At the moment there are gaps and attempts to bridge over them. If it were all so simple, they (the PA) would have already closed the deal." Netanyahu said, alluding to claims the agreement he is hatching will be no different from the one drawn up by the Labor government.

"The comments made and written are groundless and without any connection to what we are doing in order to

continue the Jewish presence in Hebron," Netanyahu maintained.

"We are not in the process of getting up and getting out of Hebron. For us, Hebron is not a foreign, distant place. Hebron is a cornerstone of our national existence, for which we are struggling."

For that struggle, Netanyahu said, he needs "the help of Hebron's Jews - we are out on opposing sides - and the help of the opposition, which should evince responsibility, and the help of the entire nation."

Netanyahu said he had no choice but to carry out the Hebron redeployment "because a government must abide by the agreements of a former government. Not to do so is to invite chaos. If we don't keep agreements, future governments will renege on whatever we contracted and everything would come apart."

This drew Begin to ask "what will come after we loosen this cork called Hebron? Then I presume the way will be paved for negotiations over Jerusalem. Can we fathom our government negotiating the fate of Jerusalem and making deals about who would have sovereignty there?"

Peres backs compromise on Labor primaries

MICHAEL YUDELMAN

LABOR Party leader Shimon Peres has adopted the compromise proposed by MK Ephraim Sneh, to hold the party convention next April and the leadership primaries three months later.

Sneh, who is a candidate for party leadership, said he would meet MK Ehad Barak to try to persuade him to agree to this compromise.

The compromise, which is also acceptable to MKs Uzi Baram and Haim Ramon, is intended to avoid a confrontation between the Peres and Barak camps at next Thursday's central committee meeting over the schedule of the convention and primaries.

Barak, at present the favorite candidate for party leadership, is insisting that the convention and leadership showdown be held together. Peres, Baram and others have recently called Barak "paranoid," "gunman" and "power drunk," accusing him of conducting an aggressive campaign to get Peres out of the way and take his place.

Barak, who addressed a meeting of central committee members yesterday, urged party leaders to restrain their attacks because the Likud is documenting every word to use later against Labor in its election propaganda.

Earlier this week, Barak said his rivals' hostility derives from their fear that he would take over the party. "Their attacks reflect their own weaknesses, not mine. They're afraid that if I'm elected I would take over the party. But these fears are groundless." He stressed that there is a grassroots desire in the party to elect a new leader and go forward, adding that there is room in Labor's leadership team for Ramon, Sneh and Barak.

MK Binyamin Ben-Eliezer, who supports Barak, accused his opponents of conducting a concerted campaign to delegitimize him. Ben-Eliezer said that if Sneh really wanted a compromise, he would have approached Barak with it first rather than going to the media.

Barak's people said yesterday that Sneh hasn't tried to set up a meeting with Barak or talk to him about his proposal. They made it clear that Barak is determined to have the convention and leadership election together, and will propose this at the central committee meeting.

Two children killed by old Jordanian landmine near Jenin

JON IMMANUEL and ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

TWO children died yesterday in an explosion caused by an old landmine in the village of Anzah, near Jenin.

Neither Jenin hospital staff nor city police could identify the dead children, saying the IDF closed the area.

The IDF said last night that, according to army sappers, the mines were brought to the site of the explosion near a cemetery and were not under the ground when they exploded. The mines were not used by the IDF, but had been in use by the Jordanian army before 1967.

There was speculation one of the dead might have been older, but local sources said they were aged 13 and 14. Another youth was injured in the explosion.

Like Kabatiya, 8 km. to the north, where a Hamas activist was killed by a bomb in his front garden Saturday, Anzah is in area B and under ultimate Israeli security control.

The Kabatiya activist's family claimed he had found the bomb while planting herbs, and was not making it himself. Police spokesman Boaz Goldberg said police have not yet finished their investigation into the Kabatiya explosion.

The IDF said an initial investigation found that the Anzah explosion caused extensive damage. IDF demolition experts and medical units rushed to the site of the explosion and the Israeli sector commander contacted his Palestinian counterpart, who met him on the scene.



National Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon, Public Works Authority director-general Ben-Zion Salmon (left) and BeerSheva Mayor Yitzhak Rager (right) prepare to cut the ribbon at the dedication of Highway 90 yesterday. (Yitzhak Eliezer/Scoop 80)

Soldiers shoot Palestinian at Ramallah roadblock

Dr. Ahmed Tibi, an Israeli-Arab adviser to Arafat and a human-rights activist, screened a videotape yesterday of border policemen slapping and taunting an arrested group of illegal Palestinian workers.

At a news conference in Ramallah with Palestinian Authority Information Minister Yasser Abed-Rabbo, Tibi said that the PA has decided to distribute video cameras for use at locations where clashes between Israeli troops and Palestinians are most frequent.

"In one [recent] case an Israeli officer, while humiliating and hitting three Palestinian laborers,

Tibi screens video of more police violence

conference, to the rapt attention of a Palestinian audience.

It showed the police standing around bored most of the time, indicating that the violence they used was just a means of changing the routine.

Most of all, it showed how both sides seemed to accept the treatment as normal.

After one clip, in which a policeman gives an audible slap to a man who appears to be asking him to treat the prisoners more civilly, that same man is seen talking in a casual way with the policeman who hit him, as though nothing had happened.

Other policemen may have been photographed in the segment still missing, the representative told the court.

The film footage, taken by an amateur Palestinian photographer, showed border policemen David Ben-Abu and Tzahi Shunaya kicking and hitting several Palestinian workers. It was aired on Channel 1 television earlier this week, prompting the arrest of the two.

The Police Investigations Division has already made clear that it plans to ask for criminal

Border policemen remanded for beating Arab workers

BILL HUTMAN

THE two border policemen seen on film beating Palestinian workers were remanded yesterday for three days by Jerusalem Magistrate's Court.

A representative of the Justice Ministry's Police Investigations Division asked for a six-day remand, on grounds additional border policemen may have been involved in the incident, and the suspects' release would hurt chances of locating them.

The division has only obtained a 25-minute segment of the 45 minutes apparently filmed at the A-Ram junction some five weeks ago.

Other policemen may have been photographed in the segment still missing, the representative told the court.

The film footage, taken by an amateur Palestinian photographer, showed border policemen David Ben-Abu and Tzahi Shunaya kicking and hitting several Palestinian workers. It was aired on Channel 1 television earlier this week, prompting the arrest of the two.

The Police Investigations Division has already made clear that it plans to ask for criminal

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A Bereaved Mother's Plea: Don't make Hebron another refuge for KILLERS!

PLEASE know that the issue of "IDF Freedom of Action" in all parts of Hebron, which is delaying the signing of the accord between Israel and the Palestinian Authority, has little to do with the four hundred Israeli citizens who live in the center of Hebron.

FROM my own tragic experience, the matter of "IDF Freedom of Action" concerns all potential murderers who are not being pursued by the IDF, and who have been afforded "havens of hospitality" by the Palestinian Authority.

MY sixteen year old son, David, was murdered by Palestinian terrorists on his way home from school on May 13, 1996. The IDF could not extricate the killers, who escaped into the cities under the jurisdiction of the Palestinian Authority.

EVEN though Israeli and American intelligence officials have given me the name and whereabouts of at least one of my son's killers, the Palestinian Authority refuses to punish him or to hand him over to the Israeli Authorities, as required by the Oslo Accords.

WHAT makes matters worse is that Arafat's press spokesman himself announced on October 8, 1996 that none of the nineteen murderers of Israelis who have taken refuge in the PA areas will ever be handed over for trial, Oslo Accords notwithstanding.

THE question remains: Under such circumstances, will Hebron become another haven of refuge to which killers of Jews, from all over the country, may escape?

THE issue of "IDF Freedom of Action" is not in any way of merely hypothetical concern, nor is it confined exclusively to the fate of four hundred Jews in Hebron.

PLEASE understand that what happened to our family could happen to any Israeli family, wherever they may live. The IDF must be allowed the prerogative of "Freedom of Action" against terrorists who escape to a new "city of refuge" for killers in Hebron.

FAX Prime Minister Netanyahu today! Demand that he remain resolute on this issue of "IDF Freedom of Action" in Hebron. His fax number is: 02-566-4838.

Joyce Boim
19 Rehov Brand, Jerusalem, Israel

Winning cards and numbers

The winning cards in yesterday's Chance draw were the king of spades, queen of hearts, 10 of diamonds and eight of clubs.

In yesterday's weekly Payis Hazak drawing, ticket number 593435 was good for NIS 1 million, while the holder of ticket number 621864 won a car.

Tickets numbered 692928, 555932, 546011, 634476, 701872, 294819, 486153 and 060292 all were good for NIS 5,000.

Those holding tickets ending in 33149, 93385, 66370, 19707, 21054, 57168, 13093, 44361, 56409, 25350, 27793, 00043, 77731, 31262, 51747, 87810, 31937, 82712 and 34157 all won NIS 1,000.

Those holding tickets ending in 161, 051, 450 and 254 all won NIS 100; in 12, 64, 75 and 58 NIS 30; in 23 and 93, NIS 20; and in 0 and 9, NIS 10.

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Amitai - Citizens for Good Government demands Olmert be suspended

EVELYN GORDON

JERUSALEM Mayor Ehud Olmert should be suspended from his job as mayor until his trial is over, Amitai - Citizens for Good Government demanded in a petition to the High Court of Justice yesterday.

In other news, the state yesterday appealed to the Supreme Court against the leniency of the sentence given to Mordechai Yahal, who is one of the men convicted of the same crimes for which Olmert is soon to be tried. Olmert has been charged with aggravated fraud, falsifying corporate documents, tax code violations and violating the Party Funding Law, for a fund-raising scam run by the Likud in 1988, when he was party treasurer.

Amitai's petition argued that Olmert's continued tenure as mayor while under indictment for such serious charges severely undermines the public's faith in government and the rule of law. The petition noted that by law, a city council may remove a mayor for "behavior unbecoming his position," with the interior minister's approval. The serious charges against Olmert fit the bill, the petition argued, and in light of them, the council's failure to remove or

suspend him is so unreasonable as to be illegal.

The petition cited the precedent of Shas MKs Aryeh Deri and Raphael Pinhasi, whom the High Court ordered prime minister



Ehud Olmert

Yitzhak Rabin to fire as a minister and deputy minister in 1993.

Olmert is an elected official, while ministers and deputy ministers are appointed, but this is not a reason for treating him differently, the petition argued. The voters had no way of knowing there would be an indictment against him when they elected him, and now they cannot get rid of him even if the indictment

would make them feel differently.

Finally, the petition said, it is unfair that such a senior official should be allowed to continue serving despite the charges against him, when the same charges would mandate the suspension of even the most junior municipal employees under civil service regulations.

The crimes' severity was also the main reason for the state's appeal of Yahal's sentence. Yahal, whom the appeal dubbed "the central figure and guiding spirit" of the scam, was sentenced to six months' community service and a NIS 75,000 fine. The main reason for the light sentence was the fact that eight years have passed since the crime was committed, and five since he was indicted.

The scam worked by giving businesses fictitious receipts in exchange for donations to the Likud. This enabled the party to get contributions from businesses, which are illegal, and also allowed the companies to take tax deductions as if the donations were legitimate business expenses. The NIS 1 million raised in this fashion was then omitted from the party's report to the state comptroller, enabling the party to get a clean bill of health for its finances and NIS 2m. in campaign funding from the government.

IDF order bars Jews from most of Hebron

HERB KEINON

SETTLEMENT-activists in Hebron revealed yesterday that an IDF order preventing the entrance of Jews into the vast majority of Hebron, including some areas slated to come under Israeli control in the redeployment agreement, has been in effect since October 24.

The order, barring Israelis from the city's Arab neighborhoods and some Jewish religious and historical sites, such as the tomb of Oniel Ben-Kenaz, was issued for security reasons, an IDF spokesman said. The casba is one of the areas to come under Israeli control which Israelis are barred from entering.

The order comes as area settlement leaders are expressing increasing concern that even without an official signing of a redeployment

agreement, the army is slowly redeploying, and placing most of the city off-limits to Jews.

Hebron settlement leader Noam Arnon said the order effectively places 98 percent of Hebron off-limits to Israelis.

"We are only allowed a small area," he said. "It is like a ghetto. It is inconceivable to strangle the Jewish settlement at a time when every other resident in the world, and people of all other religions, can go wherever they want. It is an intolerable form of discrimination."

The leaders of the settlement said they did not publicize the order earlier because they had a meeting at the beginning of the week with

OC Judea and Samaria Mag.-Gen. Gabi Ophir and had hoped he would rescind the order.

Arnon said that Ophir promised to look into the matter, but so far has not given the settlement an answer.

The IDF spokesman said that Israelis wishing to visit the areas covered by the order need to coordinate their visits with the IDF commanding officer in the area, who will grant special permits on an ad hoc basis depending on security considerations.

The spokesman said that this type of order has been put into effect in Hebron on a number of occasions in the past, but has only now been formalized.

The media and security forces are allowed to enter all areas covered by the order.

Police shoot, apprehend suspected diamond robber

RAINE MARCUS

POLICE yesterday shot and wounded a known criminal, who is believed to have committed a series of robberies of diamond merchants and dealers in the Tel Aviv area.

The man, Haim Hajaj, known as "Bazbaz," allegedly tried to run over detectives attempting to arrest him in the Holon industrial zone yesterday, after he and three other suspects allegedly robbed a diamond dealer in Petah Tikva.

The diamond dealer, the owner of a diamond-polishing workshop in Ramat Gan, was delivering jewelry to a store on Petah Tikva's Mivtza Kadesh St., when he was attacked and

robbed by four men, who stole bags containing tens of thousands of dollars worth of gold and diamonds, as well as cash.

During the robbery, Hajaj and his alleged accomplices were under surveillance by detectives. The detectives followed the four to Holon, where they tried to arrest them. But the four, led by Hajaj, allegedly tried to run them down and flee in their vehicles.

Hajaj was shot and wounded by police and taken to Wolfson Hospital. The other three men managed to flee but were later caught after a

chase by police, who also recovered the swag.

Hajaj was arrested and imprisoned several years ago for similar offenses, after detectives bugged his car and heard his conversations relating to the planning and carrying out of burglaries.

Police have so far not found a weapon, but detective squad chief Asst.-Cmdr. Mordechai Lieber said the gang is known for armed robberies.

The four have a remand hearing this morning - Hajaj from his hospital bed. Meanwhile, as in all cases concerning shooting at suspects by police, the Justice Ministry's police investigation division will check if the shooting was justified.

Rights group fights Labor Ministry over homes for disabled children

EVELYN GORDON

A human-rights group went to the High Court of Justice to fight a Labor Ministry decision it says denies adequate funding to homes for disabled children.

The petition, filed by Bizchut, the Israel Human-Rights Center for People with Disabilities, is on behalf of 10 families with physically and mentally disabled children. The families wanted to set up two group-homes with five children each, in apartments furnished by the city of Jerusalem.

The Labor Ministry refused to approve the project. It insisted that each home contain not less than 10 children, and it was willing to pay only NIS 4,300 per month for each child, instead of the NIS 6,710 the city said was necessary for the project.

The ministry said the 10-person minimum is necessary for both financial reasons and the children's welfare. People with such severe disabilities need round-the-clock access to medical and paramedical personnel, which it is not practical to provide for groups of fewer than 10, it said. Furthermore, it argued, since such people have limited inner resources, it is necessary for them to be in a large group which can provide external stimulation, and

for which it is financially feasible to organize a variety of activities.

In response, Bizchut said the ministry's opinion that large groups were better for the children contradicted the latest professional research, which shows that severely disabled children do much better in small homes than in "mini-institutions." The organization submitted affidavits to this effect from American experts, including some of those on whose research the ministry's conclusions were supposedly based. All stated categorically that the research cited did not support the ministry's conclusion, and that the authors would in fact be "horrified" to find themselves associated with such a conclusion.

Regarding the funding, Bizchut first noted that under previous High Court decisions, financial considerations do not justify discrimination - in this case, depriving the severely disabled of the same right to a home-like atmosphere as other people have. Furthermore, it said, the ministry gives those with both physical and mental handicaps about half of what it gives people with physical handicaps only, which constitutes illegal discrimination as well.



For a Better Israeli Society

Children.

The annual project for Israel 2000, for a better society in Israel.

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- Elem - Association for Youth at Risk
- ELI - Association for Child Protection
- Eran - Israel Association for Emotional First Aid by Phone
- Nitzan - Association for the Advancement of Children and Youth with Learning and Functional Disabilities
- The Scout Movement - "Garin Reim"
- Yated - Children with Down's Syndrome
- Yedidim - Organization for Youth and Society
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The taxing problem

IN the United States, George Bush abandoned his "read my lips: no new taxes" pledge and found himself booted out of office in the 1992 elections.

Perhaps Israeli voters will spare Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu the same punishment if he breaks the same pledge, made only a short while ago. What may not be spared is the prime minister's own dream of leaving a legacy of a transformed Israeli economy ready for the 21st century.

Netanyahu, in his victory speech and again before the US Congress, articulated a vision for the Israeli economy. But like George Bush, who was ultimately stymied by "the vision thing," the prime minister set aside the lofty vision, only to get bogged down in the muck of budget cutting.

Since the Knesset Finance Committee this week rejected the government's planned cuts in child allowances, a major component of the government's NIS 4.9 billion cut for the 1997 budget, the announcement of a further NIS 2b. cut is being met with considerable skepticism. The hints at new taxes add to the dooh because they seem to concede the government will fail to obtain its proposed cuts even before the fight has really begun.

In a joint press conference with Finance Minister Dan Meridor on Wednesday, Netanyahu said that the government would "do everything in its power not to increase the tax burden." In fact, the roughly NIS 7b. in cuts by the government include about NIS 1b. in tax hikes. The lower national insurance rate that employers pay on low-salary employees would be canceled, and user fees on certain services would be raised.

But Netanyahu was not even counting these levies in his allusion to what politicians like to call "revenue enhancement measures." Further tax increases now contemplated in the financial bureaucracy include returning the corporate income tax rate to 40 percent (the previous government reduced it to 36 percent), and increasing Value Added Tax from 17 to 19 percent.

The problem with tax increases is not just the immediate dampening effect they would have on the economy, already headed toward recession. The problem is that while budget cuts are often ephemeral, tax hikes can result in a long-term increase in the size of government.

The strategic goal must be to reduce the size of government. It is a mistake, even as a short-term fix during a budget crisis, to take any step that will move away from this critical goal. The budget package should be tailored not just toward the current crisis, but toward the long term.

The talk of new taxes is symptomatic of the lack of strategic thinking evident in the budget package as a whole. The budget cuts are a necessary trim while what the budget needs is a whole new haircut.

Meridor and Netanyahu are right: If the budget is not cut, the economy as a whole and the weaker sectors in particular will pay a terrible price in inflation and unemployment. But cuts that do not reflect a vision of how the government's overall role in the economy will change are band-aids, rather than the surgery that the government rightly claims is needed.

The prime minister and his economic team need to start a real public debate on the role of government in society. Should the government own and run the health-care system, be a mortgage banker, subsidize industries and food prices, and handroll municipalities? Government may have some proper role in all of these areas, but today's situation is clearly lopsided toward government involvement.

Perhaps Netanyahu believes that it is easier to make cuts here and there, rather than push for a systematic change in the government's role. But then, why should any minister support a cut in their ministry that is not part of a comprehensive plan, with benefits that people can understand?

Here Netanyahu and Meridor might take a cue from Steve Goldsmith, the mayor of Indianapolis who just visited Israel. Goldsmith managed to save his city millions of dollars, improve services, increase employment - all without firing a single union member. He did it by competing out many city services, and letting the government unions bid on service contracts along with private companies. He then earmarked all the savings for a "Building Fund," which paid for infrastructure improvements that have helped create an economic boom in the city.

The Middle East is very different than the Midwest, but some lessons do apply. Indianapolis's experience shows that limiting the government's role is not just a matter of staying off financial collapse; it can pay for things that people really care about. People are not interested in economic reform per se. But they do care about better roads, better schools, more money for development towns, and so on.

If people (ministers are people, too) understand how they will benefit from concrete savings, earmarked for popular projects, they might support the necessary cuts. On the other hand, budget cuts divorced from economic restructuring focus attention on the pain without promising any compelling gain.

Israel's government, taking all levels combined, spends a whopping 55 percent of the nation's economic product. Like Kennedy's promise to put a man on the moon, Netanyahu should pledge to bring government spending to 40 percent of GDP by the end of the decade. But the goal must not just be to cut, but to save and to shift. There is no reason why Israelis cannot enjoy more and better service from a smaller government that taxes them less.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

THE DEATH PENALTY

Sir, - Now that the assassin of prime minister Yitzhak Rabin has been sentenced to life imprisonment, there are reasons enough to consider imposition of the death penalty for such special cases of attacks against any leader of the State of Israel.

Life imprisonment might be the adequate punishment in many cases, but not for the cold-blooded assassination of a leader of our nation.

The imposition of the death penalty in such a case will serve as a real deterrent to any individual or group of conspirators planning any future attempt.

KURT FREUND
Haifa.

BRILLIANT RESPONSE

Sir, - Many thanks to Bill Oakfield ("Whitewash attempt") and Mike Ayl ("The Palestinian Covenant") in Letters of November 7 for their brilliant response to Yossi Beilin and others like him who are willing to appease Arafat no matter what. My hope is that

others will also respond without let-up and attack the false thinking of those who advocate a false peace process. Let us speak the truth and in time unite to face the dangers that threaten our country.

MAISH RUBIN
Beersheba.

APPEASEMENT

Sir, - Winston Churchill once said: "An appeaser is one who feeds a crocodile hoping it will eat him last." Let us all hope that our prime minister will not be an appeaser

and will stop feeding the crocodile. If not, what is the menu after Hebron? Jerusalem?

ELAN HIRSHFELD
Ra'anana.

COMPLEMENTARY MEDICINE

Sir, - I refer to Wendy Elliman's article of November 15 about complementary medicine. A characteristic of high technology in the late 20th century is the loss of control felt by the common citizen, who does not understand it and feels alienated. This explains in large degree the incredible phenomenon of the rush to non-medical therapy when modern scientific medicine has made remarkable advances in all fields and continues to do so. No doubt the impersonal and, at time inhuman, medical system (see Sam Orbaum) is in no small measure to blame. Nevertheless, pandering to superstition, rumor, ignorance, prejudice and other emotional extremes is no way to develop medicine. It should be clearly stated and has been by

the Israel Medical Association and others; there is only one medicine - scientific medicine. All the rest, valid as it may be as a psychological prop or placebo, is not medicine, either "integrated," "alternative," "complementary" or any other title given to it.

This is nothing to do with perceived threats to prestige, income or anything else. Doctors have a responsibility to tell the truth to their patients and society, even if it hurts. Science is not a system of medicine; it is an approach to the search for objectivity and testable observations. It is founded on rationality and logic, both of which are sorely lacking in the proponents of non-medicine. Scientific medicine rejects no method of treatment or therapy, providing and only providing that

ZOA DINNER

Sir - Having attended the Zionist Organization of America's annual dinner on October 20, at which Israel's Ambassador to the United States, Elishu Ben-Elissar, was the guest speaker, we were astonished to read Marilyn Henry's account of the dinner on October 22.

Ms. Henry wrote that the ambassador was given a hostile reception. Nothing could be further from the truth. Mr. Ben-Elissar was given a standing ovation when he was introduced to speak and at the conclusion of his remarks.

In the course of his address, the ambassador noted with regret that the new government would have to fulfill certain obligations it had inherited which it would not have agreed to if it had been in power. The audience shared his concern.

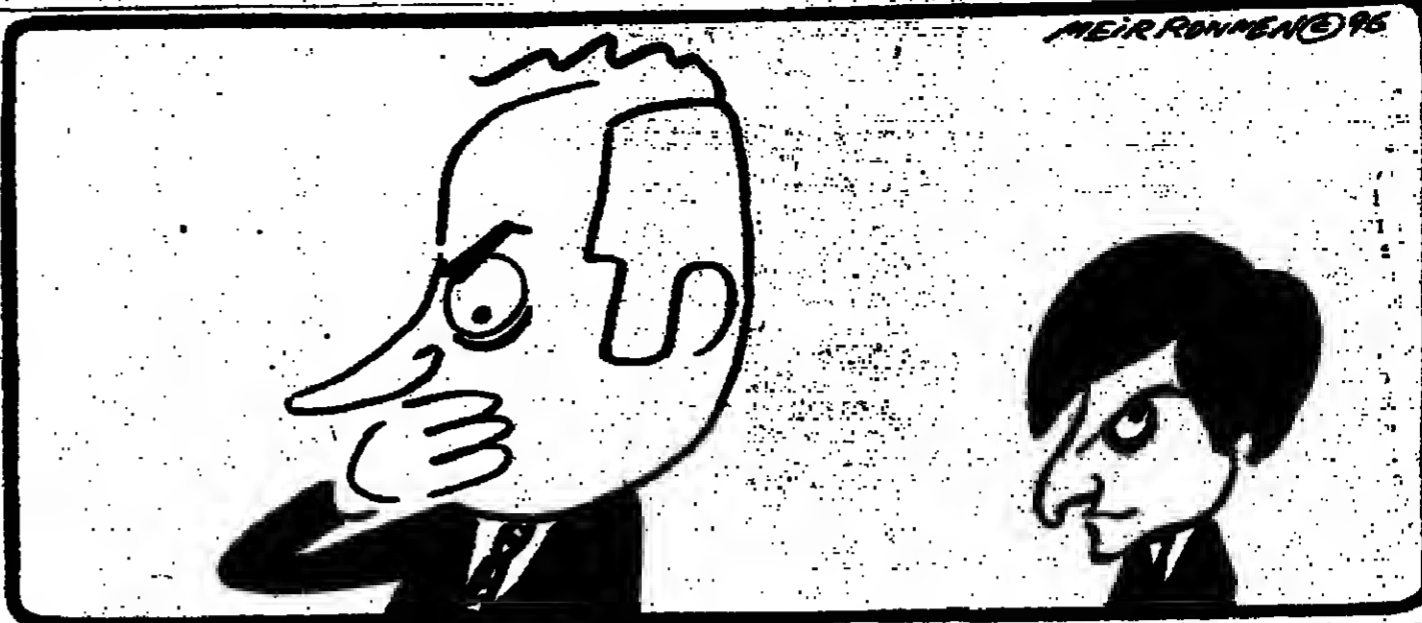
JUDITH ROSENBERG
STANLEY ROSENBERG
SYLVIA KRINITZ
MIKE KRINITZ
Englewood, New Jersey.

It can be shown that unequivocal and valid evidence exists from repeated, unbiased and objective observation that the method works, and does more good than harm.

The main unifying characteristic of non-medicine of all varieties is an almost complete absence of experimental observation. It depends entirely on stories, untested and undocumented claims for its claims to wonder cures. This is not only farcical, it is also a fundamental disservice to the patients. Perhaps something out there really works? If so, why not subject it to critical scientific scrutiny, and if shown to be so, then millions of people all over the world could benefit, instead of the fortunate few who may find a miraculous (and expensive) natural cure.

DR. ANTHONY S. LUDER

"No more taxes - read my lips..."



US-Israel: no U-turn ahead

MOSHE ZAK

MUAMMAR Gaddafi usually breathes fire and brimstone at the US and does his best to antagonize it. But this week he joined the Arab chorus sweetly serenading President Clinton.

In an interview with France's *Le Figaro* the Libyan leader described Bill Clinton as "a good man," adding that now "after his reelection and freed from the Zionist lobby he will show the world the real Clinton."

As usual Gaddafi was expressing, in unvarnished form, other Arab leaders' sentiments.

In line with these sentiments those leaders held up Palestinian and Syrian negotiations with Israel, believing that a second-term Clinton, independent of the Jewish vote, would change his policy toward us.

Gaddafi still supports international terrorism. He is still stockpiling chemical weapons. He refuses to extradite his agents who smuggled the bomb onto the American plane that crashed at Lockerbie, and he goes on provoking the UN.

So what makes him believe Clinton is about to change his position?

Like other Arab leaders he assumes that the US can be isolated on the international stage and forced to follow the line of the European Union, Russia or China on the Middle East, or on any other question.

This assumption is fundamentally inaccurate - and the US veto in the Security Council on extending Boutros Boutros-Ghali's term as UN secretary-general proved it.

The US objected to extending

Boutros-Ghali's term because it doubted his ability to get the UN out of its financial deficit and free it from its bureaucratic tentacles. And Clinton's runaway election victory hasn't changed his administration's position on that.

Israel was not remotely involved in the affair and took no position on the Egyptian diplomat's candidacy.

eral's historical attitude on preserving the status of a UN member state. But clearly this had nothing to do with the US's refusal to a second term for Boutros-Ghali.

The fact that all the other Security Council members voted for him - Russia, China, the EU and the African countries - didn't panic the US. It remained in glory.

Clinton's principled stand on the Mideast will extend into his second term as president

No one here brought up what Boutros-Ghali wrote in January 1974: "The scenario of peaceful Arab-Zionist coexistence does not mean that the Arabs accept the existence of a Zionist entity in the heart of the Arab homeland. We assume that the struggle for the extermination of Zionist survival (N.B. not Jewish survival) will take a different form."

Back then Boutros-Ghali called on Arab intellectual circles to think about what Arab society would look like in the year 2000, with its Jewish minority, and of ways to "release this minority from the domination of misleading Zionist ideology so it may dissolve in the melting pot of Arab nationalism."

Libya's Gaddafi echoed the same thought this week, when he graciously invited Jews to return to Libya.

So much for the secretary-gen-

eral's historical attitude on preserving the status of a UN member state. But clearly this had nothing to do with the US's refusal to a second term for Boutros-Ghali.

The fact that all the other Security Council members voted for him - Russia, China, the EU and the African countries - didn't panic the US. It remained in glory.

Clinton's reelection has not, in fact, changed his stand on any central political issue.

His Mideast policy during his first term was not decided by the "Jewish vote," as some would like to say, but by American interests.

Thus the claim that the "real Clinton" will now be revealed is a personal insult to the US president.

Clinton wasn't lying to his voters, Jewish or not, when he declared his firm friendship for Israel. And the president will keep his promise to preserve Israel's qualitative edge over its neighbors.

True, he has officials who will try to twist Israel's aim to ease negotiations with the Palestinians and the Syrians, but if Israel

insists on its essential interests even in the face of diplomatic difficulties it will find no U-turn in Clinton's basic stand.

In the final analysis the Arabs too will come to see continued US support for Israel as evidence of Clinton's trustworthiness; in the end it will help them understand that the US can be relied on.

American intervention, over Kuwait in 1991 was not an isolated incident.

In spring 1961, David Ben-Gurion recounted in his diaries, he met president Kennedy in New York for a discussion of weighty issues like the Dimona nuclear plant and the Palestinian refugee problem.

As they were leaving Kennedy put his arm around Ben-Gurion's shoulder and invited him into a private back room. There the president said that he owed his election to America's Jews and asked what he could do for Israel.

Replied Ben-Gurion: "Do whatever is good for the free world." The Israeli leader had no doubt that that would be good for Israel too.

Like his successors Ben-Gurion had many differences with the US; but these did not prevent a strong and lasting network of trust and ties being forged between the two countries. It was this network that held "oil power" and several threats of war at bay.

The whole Middle East is on the highway to peace. Israel can have no reason to believe Clinton will betray the trust invested in him.

The writer, a veteran journalist, comments on current affairs.

Enter the 'politics of utility'

ALLAN E. SHAPIRO

THE first election promise Benjamin Netanyahu broke was on the issue of a national unity government.

In the pre-election televised debate with Shimon Peres, Netanyahu declared that if elected he would turn to the Labor Party to form a national unity government. No such overture was ever made.

This episode set the stage for much that was to come. It made clear that considerations of utility rather than of policy determined the new prime minister's public and even private - commitments.

Today even the purported decision to implement the Oslo accords is justified in Likud circles as an electoral necessity - without Netanyahu's promise to fulfill Israel's commitments to the Palestinians, he would not have become prime minister.

Now Netanyahu has returned to the idea of a national unity government. His broken promises to his coalition partners and to power brokers in his own party have made the notion expedient, perhaps even essential.

It surfaced last week in the story leaked to Channel 1 television's weekend news magazine which authoritatively reported that the prime minister favored a coalition with Labor, but without Peres.

Peres, Netanyahu contended, could not be trusted to refrain from policy initiatives of his own. This charge was documented a few days later by a second leak which made headlines - the purported Peres advice to Arafat on Hebron - first attributed to a "senior minister," later to a "non-political figure" and confirmed by an aide to the prime minister.

That episode ended with

Netanyahu and Peres vociferously declaring their faith and confidence in each other.

The unity initiative is apparently still very much alive. Netanyahu needs it, and not because of Hebron or the continuation of the peace process.

While Ehud Barak suggested exploiting a coalition split on a Hebron agreement to bring down

worse, policy demands, fueled by rivalry among the religious factions, are more than the political market can bear.

These include legislation guaranteeing the Orthodox monopoly on conversion and measures to restrict the jurisdiction of the High Court in matters of religious concern.

When it comes to the budget,

The prime minister needs Labor support to pass the budget. So he needs a national unity government

the Netanyahu government, calmer voices in Labor - most conspicuously Peres - promised to provide the government with a safety net against defections in its own ranks.

Netanyahu, for his part, appears reluctant to take any chances. He remains undecided whether to ask for Knesset approval of a Hebron accord.

NETANYAHU needs Labor in the government not because of the peace process, but because of the budget.

Here the fissures in his own camp are probably beyond repair. The prime minister has to contend, first of all, with the rank and file in his own party, for whom social issues come first. After that come the payoffs to the religious camp.

Cash demands of the clerical parties, of course, exceed budgetary restrictions. But, even

Netanyahu has no safety net, political or legal.

Labor opposition to the budget is guaranteed, and the law makes new elections mandatory if the government can't pass the budget within 90 days after the commencement of the fiscal year. As matters stand now, Netanyahu simply doesn't have the Knesset votes.

The prime minister needs Labor support to pass the budget. He surely knows that this means a senior portfolio for Shimon Peres. My guess is that the one he has in mind is the Treasury.

There was no need for the recent news leaks to make the point that Netanyahu doesn't want Peres as foreign minister. The Treasury, however, is another matter. After all, the proposed budget cuts are the recommendations of Treasury officials who are holdovers from the Labor government.

Even more to the point, Peres as

finance minister would be much less of a threat to the prime minister than the present incumbent, Dan Meridor, whom he never wanted in the job in the first place.

Meridor, moreover, has come out in support of a unity government as the best instrument to negotiate the final settlement with the Palestinians. Thus he could hardly refuse to make the required sacrifice.

Netanyahu might even be prepared to take the process a step further and accept Ehud Barak as defense minister. Yitzhak Mordochai, like Meridor, is perceived by the Prime Minister's Office as a possible rival for future party leadership. Hence he is systematically distanced from the decision-making process, as the Western Wall Tunnel affair demonstrated.

For Labor entering a unity government would mean putting off the succession battle now heating up.

Barak's eagerness to bring down the Netanyahu government is understandable, if there is a possibility of a change of party leader before new elections were held.

Peres, for his part, would be more inclined toward the unity option. It would be particularly difficult for him to turn it down if it appeared that the continuation of the peace process hung in the balance.

At this point in his career Peres's focus is on his place in history. If there are general elections in the near future, whether or not Peres is Labor's candidate one thing is certain: the Likud won't make credibility an issue.

The writer is a legal and political commentator.

POSTSCRIPTS

NEXT THING you know, they're going to be giving sex education to seven-year-olds.

Like we said...

Brazilian schoolchildren as young as seven will get sex education from next year to prepare them for the joys of physical contact as well as the dangers of AIDS, the government announced.

"Manifestations of child sexuality occur from a very young age and are inherent to human development," the Education Ministry said in guidelines on sex education to be distributed to primary school teachers. Teachers should not criticize

pupils for their sexual curiosity to "help the child recognize that his needs and desires for pleasure are acceptable," the document said.

However, the teachers "must also make it clear that sexual acts and similar intimacies are possible manifestations of the sexuality of youths and adults, not of children," it warned.

A ministry spokeswoman said sexual reproduction, safe sex and contraception would be raised in class discussions, and denied seven-year-olds were too young to learn about sex.

"Most Brazilian schoolchildren are from low income families with

little schooling. Our aim is to show them the importance of respecting their own bodies as early as possible," she said.

AMERICAN COUNTRY music can literally drive you to despair: "And if that does not come as a surprise to some, British scientists revealed that you can predict economic recession by the degree of gloom in pop charts."

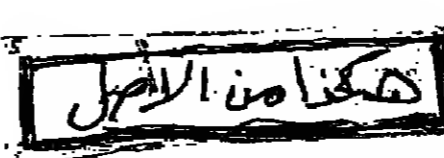
In a report to Britain's main annual science festival, two British psychologists said researchers were just beginning to understand how people in the Western world respond to music.

NICARAGUA HAS had a rather spotty record regarding Israel, so it comes as something of a surprise that it has come out with a postage stamp honoring Golda Meir.

The stamp, with a distinctive Israeli motif in the background, is one of a series of nine accomplished women.

Others include Marie Curie, Mother Teresa, Indira Gandhi and Eva Peron.

Costa Rica has also honored an Israeli subject this year: the 3,000th anniversary of Jerusalem.



The compass is clear

BINYAMIN Netanyahu has crossed the Rubicon. Unlike Julius Caesar, however, he didn't bead for Rome but for the Principality of Andorra.

The Palestinian entity due to arise under the permanent-status settlement, said the premier, "will be on the lines of a state like Andorra or Puerto Rico."

And the earth did not shake; nor did its pillars tremble. Andorra is a minuscule principality plunked down in the Pyrenees between France and Spain. It has an area of 450 sq. km, and its population is 65,000.

It has a parliament and a government, and its two "princes" are the president of France and a Spanish bishop; both are represented by surrogate officials. Its residents speak Spanish and French.

The country has no airport. It doesn't even have a railway station. It boasts no army and deploys only a police force.

Its currency is the French franc or the Spanish peseta. The entity has been independent in some manner or other since 1278, and it is a member of the UN. It has its own national anthem and flag.

As for Puerto Rico, it lies in the Caribbean and is a member of the US commonwealth - not a state but an "autonomous authority."

Its 3.8 million inhabitants decided in free elections to waive political independence; they are US citizens. Bill Clinton is their president, and they have two houses of parliament and an elected government.

They speak English and Spanish, their currency is the US dollar, and they are subordinate to the US Constitution; but the Spanish legal system prevails.

Puerto Rico has no army, and it is not a UN member. It has an anthem and a flag.

All this is to say that what we are talking about is two almost-states characterized by dependent independence - which of course is an oxymoron, a contradiction in terms.

They might have parliaments and governments, but they lack armies. Their sovereign is foreign, but their premier is a native. Their economies are linked to those of the custodian countries.

If the Palestinians spoke Yiddish they might have told Netanyahu: "Moichel toives - don't do us any favors! This isn't the baby we longed for; we shall

YOSEF LAPID

achieve our independence 'with blood and with fire' despite you, and in defiance of you!"

And yet Netanyahu's words represent a quantum leap in the right's thinking; for the first time, a Likud leader and Revisionist scion, a Jabotinskyite prince has uttered the possibility of the Palestinians becoming some sort of state - one with clipped wings perhaps, but a state nonetheless. A state without sovereignty, but their very own. With soldiers and borders, a flag and an anthem, passports and postage stamps, a government, a parliament...

THOSE WHO have always thought this should be the case

A Palestinian (sort of) state in five to 10 years. There's no avoiding it

just don't appreciate how hard it is for a man like Netanyahu to speak of a "Palestinian" Puerto Rico, or how much courage the premier needed to bestow an Andorra on the Palestinians between the Green Line and the Jordan River.

Nor is he alone: MK Yehuda Lankri of the Likud's Geshet faction declared recently on TV's *Popolitika*: "The idea of a Palestinian state is making headway in Likud ranks."

Dr. Lankri is close to David Levy, who is serving as foreign minister in a Likud government, and he wouldn't have said what he did without his patron's knowledge.

And, indeed, Levy himself hinted at such heretical thoughts during his most recent appearance before the parliamentary Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee.

It's also what Minister Tzahi Hanegbi, who is close to the premier, was getting at when he explained in the Knesset plenum that ultimately the Palestinians would have to be given "some symbols of sovereignty."

It will take time for this notion to ripen: but somewhere, emerging between the cracks of flaming

nationalism, a vapor of consciousness is ascending; and at the end of the process there will be no gainsaying a Palestinian state.

On the other hand there is no leader on the left, from Peres through Barak and Ramon to Beilin and Sarid, who doesn't declare that even if a Palestinian state does arise it will not stretch up to the Green Line.

The "dense" Israeli settlements will stay under Israeli control; and no one will evacuate the settlers from Ariel or Ma'aleh Adummim.

We shall not be coming down from the mountain ridge, nor evacuating the Jordan Valley. While not remaining in a Greater Israel, neither shall we be withdrawing into a Small Israel.

Even the left understands that if a Palestinian state is created its sovereignty will be limited; perhaps it will set up a federation with Jordan.

In any event it will be unable to forge military alliances, allow foreign armies entry into its territory or be allowed to equip itself with heavy arms.

In other words it'll be something like Andorra or Puerto Rico, or perhaps a little more...

There's talk about a split in the nation. On the contrary: A national consensus is consolidating around the Palestinian issue, and the day isn't far off when the gap will close.

Likud and Labor will be able to present Arafat with a joint platform: a Palestinian state with limited sovereignty, with borders that do not embrace a belt of settlements.

Arafat won't like it; the Islamic extremists will like it even less. It will take them a long time to assimilate the notion.

But sooner or later a Palestinian state will arise in part of the territory of the Land of Israel, and part of Judea and Samaria will be annexed to the State of Israel.

This is the process toward which the Middle East is marching. There will be upheavals, obstacles, delays and tensions; confrontations, political struggles and bloody clashes.

But history has chosen the right compass reading for a realistic compromise, and we can go ahead and assume that in five or 10 years we'll get there.

The author is an editorial writer for Ma'ariv.



Trapped in a perilous place called home

SHARON SHENHAV

Why do you take it, why? You lie in bed and you cry! Are you too stupid to fly? You're frightened, eh? He's in love with me, And he is my man, you see. And yet he beats me. But he has promised he will change just for me. He will change just for me. (Golan Azulai)

hesitated to use the options a lawyer would recommend: police complaint, civil protective order, separation, divorce.

Women, who took my advice were, often cruelly disappointed by the system.

Police officers weren't always sensitive to the complainant. Often they would ask what the woman had "done" to "provoke" the attack. Husbands would often claim that their wives had, in fact, attacked them and that they had only been defending themselves. They would then file a complaint of abuse against their wives.

In cases where the police recommended prosecution judges

job is to make the laws we live under, the criminal justice system has a responsibility to treat this complaint no differently from any other.

Regrettably women whose husbands hold public positions are not immune to spousal abuse and men who hide behind their status as professors, judges, doctors or legislators should not be able thus to evade prosecution.

Violence against women is a problem in every society. While Jewish husbands are supposed to relate to their wives with love, kindness and consideration, too many seem incapable of fulfilling this role.

Jewish women tend to remain in an abusive relationship twice as long as other women

were often too lenient, handing down punishment so light as to send the message that "knocking your wife around a bit" isn't a serious criminal act, just something that "happens" even in the best of families.

Civil protection orders, while issued, were short-term. The abusive spouse would return to the home and continue the abuse, sometimes becoming more sophisticated so the bruises didn't show or changing his approach to emotional instead of physical abuse.

Filing for divorce in the rabbinical courts almost always resulted in a request by the husband for *shalom bayit*, which the rabbi encouraged in the hope of saving the marriage.

I witnessed cases in which there were dozens of hearings after physical abuse, where each time the contrite husband's promise to change his behavior was accepted as proof that reconciliation would occur.

A get was not possible so long as the abusive husband "loved his wife" and wanted another chance.

Rahel Dayan's complaint should be investigated thoroughly. Because she is the wife of a legislator, a public figure whose

describing the dilemma of the abused woman.

He performed the song last month at the opening of the first family shelter and counseling center in Tel Aviv, a joint project of Na'amat, the Tel Aviv Foundation and the Labor Ministry.

In Israel women's organizations have led the way in counseling battered women who are able to remain in their homes. Such women need to be encouraged to realize their strengths and learn to use the tools available to them in dealing with abusive partners.

Aided by lawyers, social workers and psychologists battered women needn't despair. They can be empowered to end their victimization and build healthy, abuse-free lives for themselves and their children.

Golan Azulai didn't stop at writing a song. He helped found the Association of Men Against Violence, which works together with Na'amat, reaching out via lectures and workshops to boys in high schools and men on army bases.

Evidence that abused boys tend to become abusing men makes this kind of work a vital educational tool.

Encouragingly, the prime minister recently said there must be an end to the victimization of women by abusive men and announced the funding of a campaign to increase public awareness of family violence.

This acceptance of responsibility for education and financial participation in providing it will make the government an important partner in creating a society where no woman or child need live in fear, one where home is a haven and not a trap.

The time is past when a victim of spousal abuse needs to "take it," even if that spouse is a public figure.

Our society must send a clear, unequivocal message to abusers and their victims: Violence in the home is unacceptable.

The writer was legal adviser to Na'amat and director of its legal services in Jerusalem from 1982 to 1994. She currently directs Na'amat's Overseas Division.

Once upon a time...

ONCE upon a time there was an Israeli general who wanted to become a politician - not an uncommon occurrence.

And as all Israeli politicians feel an urge to speak out on the Holocaust he went to Poland and held forth on the site of a death camp.

He said that we had come too late; had we - that is, the IDF and Israel generally - been there in 1939, the Holocaust would not have happened. We would have prevented it.

Of course, in 1939 the only state we could have had was the state that Britain was, for a short time, considering giving us, namely, the one proposed by the 1937 Peel Commission - a state on both banks of the mighty Yarkon River.

There is no doubt that that state would have been able to rescue tens of thousands, even perhaps slightly more, with tremendous effort, and at very short notice.

It would have made every effort to create an army, say of two or three divisions, and an air force - straining every muscle - of a couple of hundred aircraft.

These forces would most certainly have offered their participation in the war against the 150 mechanized German divisions and the thousands of aircraft of the Luftwaffe.

They would, I have no doubt, have written a glorious page in our history, and it is a real and great pity that that mini-state and its military forces did not come into existence.

But it would not, because it could not, have saved the millions, and it would not have prevented the Holocaust.

YEHUDA BAUER

That general, by the way, has in the meantime indeed become a VIP - Very Important Politician - on the left.

AN EVEN more central VIP, this time on the right, did not go to Poland. He spoke out here in our eternal, undivided capital city.

He said that he had found, in the UN archives, evidence that

...a Very Important Politician shared his feelings about the Holocaust with us. I wish he hadn't

Western powers had received information about the Holocaust as early as 1942 and 1943, and that had they wanted they could have saved two and a half million Jews, no less.

Except of course that there is no such material at the UN, which was founded in 1945 and has no archives from World War II.

It does have files on individuals accused by various countries of having been war criminals - like the file on that nice young Austrian intelligence officer of the German army, a certain Kurt Waldheim. I would imagine that was what the VIP was looking for.

The West did receive information about the Holocaust in 1942 ("revelations" in the American press this week notwithstanding) and published it in December of that year.

And it was indeed not particularly eager to do something about it, and that brands the Western powers as morally culpable, indifferent bystanders; but even had it wanted to the West could not have prevented the murder in 1941-43 until the Americans repaired the airfields at Foggia in Italy towards the end of 1943. There was no way planes could have reached Poland before that.

At the end of 1943, Treblinka, Belzec and Sobibor were no longer active, and Chelmo would be reactivated only later.

The first reliable information about Auschwitz reached the West after the escape of two prisoners in April 1944.

The question whether air bombardment, important as it would have been, would have made the Germans desist from murder has to be answered negatively. To say that 2.5 million Jews would have been saved is an irresponsible statement, at best.

The moral of this story? With great respect for all politicians (Jewish and non-Jewish) and some trepidation, I should like to extend this advice to our public servants: When you get that gut feeling, when there rises the irrepressible urge to share your innermost, profoundest sentiments on our tragedy with the public at large, when you feel words forming in your soul that want to burst out and teach us, the citizens, what one should learn from the Holocaust - don't. Just don't.

Leave the Holocaust alone. Wrap yourselves in deeply meaningful, and total, silence.

You will earn the undying gratitude of us all.

The writer is a professor of Holocaust studies.

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Khmer Rouge releases British mine-clearing expert

PHNOM PENH, Cambodia (Reuters) - Khmer Rouge guerrillas freed a British mine-clearing expert and his Cambodian interpreter nearly eight months after they were captured near the famous Angkor temple, military officials said yesterday.

Christopher Howes, 36, and Houn Hourth were described as "weak and very thin" by army Chief-of-Staff Gen. Nhek Bunchhay, who spoke to troops sheltering the men in the central province of Kompong Thom.

The men had reportedly been slave laborers since their capture, making and laying mines by day and guarded at night. They left the headquarters of hard-line Khmer Rouge leader Ta Mok on November 5 with a 150-strong mine-laying unit headed south for Kompong Thom.

Gen. Tim Sombol, chief military adviser to First Premier Norodom Ranariddh, said the guerrillas secretly intended to defect. Government negotiators told them to turn over the hostages first. They were transferred to army troops in Kompong Thom's heavy forests Wednesday.

Nhek Bunchhay flew in a military helicopter to the area Wednesday and spoke with ground troops on the radio. He reported the hostages were "safe." Howes apparently had a broken bandicuff on one wrist. The men were expected to reach Phnom Penh today.

"They are staying with our troops in the jungle of Kompong Thom province," Nhek Bunchhay said. "It is not easy to walk in the jungle on muddy roads to arrive at our military headquarters."

Meanwhile, an estimated 300 hard-line Khmer Rouge guerrillas were pursuing the defecting mine-layers, Nhek Bunchhay said. An equal number of government soldiers was poised to intervene.

Though the Khmer Rouge had occasionally kidnapped foreigners for ransom and sometimes killed them, the guerrillas had largely left alone foreign mine-clearing experts until Howes was abducted March 26.

Some 30 guerrillas surrounded Howes and about 30 Cambodians working for the British-based Mines Advisory Group as they

cleared mines 17 kilometers (10 miles) from Angkor Wat, the fabled 11th century temple that is Cambodia's main tourist attraction.

Some of the team risked death and fled across a minefield where they had just placed signs marking locations of mines.

A witness said Howes turned down a chance to go free to negotiate a ransom payment, instead staying behind in exchange for the release of his Cambodian colleagues.

In the following months, reports reached Phnom Penh that the Khmer Rouge was using Howes to extract explosives from artillery shells to make mines for its war against the government.

Other reports said the men were alive and at times held at the home of Ta Mok, known as the "The Butcher" for his brutality during the Khmer Rouge regime that left two million Cambodians dead between 1975 and 1979.

In 1994, Khmer Rouge guerrillas killed three young backpackers after holding them hostage during two months of futile talks over ransom.

UN traces 700,000 refugees to east Zaire

ELIF KABAN GENEVA

The United Nations refugee agency said yesterday it had traced the whereabouts - for the first time in weeks - of up to 700,000 missing Rwandan Hutu refugees in east Zaire using Western satellite pictures and overflights.

"We've located these refugees with the help of satellite pictures and information from Western overflights in the region and other sources," UNHCR spokeswoman Melita Sunjic said.

It was the first time a humanitarian agency was able to come up with an overall picture of the mass plight across eastern Zaire's banana plantations, forests and bushes since the Hutu refugees fled an ethnic Tutsi revolt.

There have also been Western aid reports from the region of concentrations of displaced Zaireans near Goma and Bukavu.

One million Rwandan Hutus fled to eastern Zaire after 1994's Hutu-led genocide of Tutsis together with Hutu militia, former government leaders and soldiers who led the slaughter.

At the weekend, half a million Hutus poured back across the border into Rwanda after Tutsi rebel shelling forced Hutu rebels to flee Goma, but more than 500,000 remained unaccounted for as aid agencies scrambled to find ways of reaching them.

Sunjic said an estimated 50,000 refugees had

been located in an area some 20 km west of Masisi region near Goma in north Kivu. Another estimated 100,000 refugees had been spotted in an area north of Sake village near Masisi.

UNHCR officials said earlier this week that up to 200,000 refugees - believed to be extremist Hutu militiamen, their families and others who cannot go back to Rwanda - were heading for Masisi, another ethnic tinderbox in the volatile region.

Sunjic said that further south in Bukavu region, the UNHCR had located the whereabouts of some 550,000 refugees - who include Rwandan and Burundian Hutus as well as displaced Zairean villagers.

A huge concentration of an estimated 200,000 refugees had been spotted around 75 km north of Bukavu and another 250,000 people in the opposite direction some 75 km south of Bukavu, Sunjic said.

Deeper into Zaire, an estimated 100,000 refugees had been seen in Fizi area some 100 km south of Uvira region, she added.

But despite information garnered from aerial

surveys and satellite images, Sunjic said, UNHCR had yet to establish which direction the refugees were heading.

UNHCR reported renewed fighting around the Masisi hills above Sake which could block a homeward movement.

UNHCR's Filippo Grandi said in Goma that after almost a day of wrangling the UNHCR finally succeeded in gaining access to Sake. Refugees arriving in Goma from Sake told reporters there had been several clashes in the last few days between Tutsi rebels and members of the ex-Rwandan army and Hutu militia.

The UN said it had succeeded in sending an assessment team into Bukavu. Zairean rebels have up until now prevented aid agencies from entering Bukavu to gain a first-hand picture.

Meanwhile, Canada, the country set to lead any multinational intervention, said yesterday military leaders from countries expected to send troops would finally meet today in Germany. The meeting was originally scheduled for Wednesday.

Military leaders from several nations including the US, France, Britain and Canada were expected to attend the meeting, which was called to review plans for the mission endorsed by the UN before last week's mass return. (AP)

Belgian parliament votes to step up pedophile probe

BRUSSELS (Reuters) - Belgium's parliament yesterday supported a recommendation by a panel of its members to ask the country's highest court to investigate further under-age sex allegations against Deputy Prime Minister Elio Di Rupo.

A full session voted 103-20 in favor of the recommendation agreed by the parliamentary commission in the early hours yesterday to request the Cour de Cassation to look into the allegations.

Di Rupo strongly denies he had sex with young boys.

In Belgium homosexuality is allowed by law, but pedophilia - sex with children younger than 16 - is a crime.

Raymond Langendries, the lower house chairman who also chaired the 11-member commission, said after the closed-door vote: "The Chamber adopted by 103 to 20 votes the recommendation of the special commission on Mr Di Rupo."

It was not immediately clear how many abstentions or absentees there had been during the vote in the 150-seat parliament.

The vote was due to be followed by a question and answer session with Prime Minister Jean-Luc Dehaene, who was expected to speak out on the issue for the first time since the allegations emerged in the Belgian press last weekend.

The court has been asked to submit a report on its findings by December 9 at the latest. The commission will then decide whether the evidence against Di Rupo, who is gay, is strong enough to recommend he be indicted and sent for trial.

Langendries said the parliament would send a fact-finding mission to request the Cour de Cassation.

"The public prosecutor and the court must detail whether they believe there are sufficient indications to justify starting the process of charging (Di Rupo)," he said.

The commission made its recommendation on the basis of a report presented by the Brussels public prosecutor, but ruled parliament would need more information for a more definite assessment of the allegations.

For Di Rupo to be charged, parliament would have to vote to lift his constitutional immunity. That would surely mean the end of his rapid rise in the Socialist Party to the second most senior position in the Belgian government.

By deferring a final recommendation on his fate, the parliamentary commission set a bomb ticking under Belgium's center-left coalition government.

Queen orders Diana's name struck from Anglican prayers

LONDON (AP) - By royal decree, Princess Diana was removed yesterday from the Church of England's prayer for the royal family because she is divorced from Prince Charles.

Beginning on Sunday, the words "Charles Prince of Wales" will replace the words "Prince and Princess of Wales" in the prayer, said a statement from Lambeth Palace, residence of the archbishop of Canterbury, the Most Rev. George Carey.

The church statement said the move, ordered by Queen Elizabeth II, was "a necessary matter of form now that the marriage has ended."

"The Princess of Wales is still included in the prayer for the royal family [generally]," said church spokeswoman Leslie Perry. "And there is nothing to stop people praying for her by name if they want to, but not attached to Prince Charles."

A reference to Diana has already been deleted from the morning prayer in the House of Commons.

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LEONARD SHACH ז"ל
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A year has passed and we deeply miss -
husband, father and grandfather
SAUL POLACK
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Gloria Polack, Sharon Lanis and family,
the daughters and grandchildren in Los Angeles

בית דין תלמידי
With great sorrow we announce the passing of our beloved
father and grandfather
JOSEPH SCHNITZER ז"ל
The funeral was held on
Thursday, November 21 (10 Kislev),
Sharon and Julian Himmelfarb and Family
Avrumie and Mary Jo Schnitzer and Family
Shiva in Hashmonaim.

A memorial evening to commemorate the shloshim
of our beloved father
TOBIAS HELLER ז"ל
will be held this Sunday evening, November 24, 1996 (14 Kislev
5757), 8 p.m., at Hatzvi Yisrael Synagogue,
14 Rehov Hovevei Zion, Jerusalem, at 8 p.m.
The unveiling of the matzeva will take place Monday morning,
November 25 (14 Kislev), 8 a.m. at Har Tzavim, Gush Tzav Tet,
Kehillat Yerushalayim (First right turn on the road towards the
parking lot of Har Hameinuhot).
Rachel and Nat Bernstein
Debbie and Moshe Lifschitz
and Families

Not doing anything?

If you have a little extra time on your hands, then... never been a better reason for a getaway to Paris than our special fare. Just book your flight before midnight, November 27, and plan to leave from JFK or Newark, New York on a Thursday or Friday, returning the following Monday or Tuesday. The fare is good for departures through December 13, 1996, or between January 9 and March 7, 1997. Seats are limited, so call your travel agent or Air France at 1-800-235-2623. After all, a little time spent in the best city you've ever had is a long time.



Since losing his US presidential bid, Bob Dole has become a pitchman for Air France, lending his image to this newspaper ad. Dole will donate the \$3,000 fee for the ad to a community center for the elderly. The ad slogan, "Not doing anything," is a reference to Dole's concession speech, in which he said: "Tomorrow will be the first time in my life I don't have anything to do." (AP)

P.W. Botha refuses to apologize for apartheid

CAPE TOWN (Reuters) - Former South African president P.W. Botha said yesterday he would never apologize for apartheid and had no intention of seeking an amnesty under the country's new black rulers.

"I am not guilty of any deed for which I should apologize or ask for amnesty. I therefore have no intention of doing this," the 80-year-old Botha told Archbishop Desmond Tutu, chairman of a post-apartheid Truth Commission.

Tutu's commission has until the end of 1997 to unravel the human-rights record of the war over apartheid, to pardon human-rights offenders on both sides of the struggle and to award limited compensation to victims.

Botha, one of two surviving white apartheid presidents, made his remarks in a statement he read to Tutu in a private meeting over herbal tea and sausage rolls at his daughter's home in George, east of Cape Town.

Botha made his statement available to reporters after the two-hour meeting.

"Mr Botha made no confessions or dramatic revelations," Tutu said later. "It would have been unrealistic to think we were going to hear a comprehensive mea culpa."

Botha complained that the commission, which has heard harrowing tales by victims and perpetrators of

Nixon ordered Brookings break-in, report says

SAN FRANCISCO (Reuters) - Newly released tapes show president Richard Nixon ordered his chief of staff to break into a liberal think tank in 1971 to steal Vietnam War files, the San Francisco Examiner reported yesterday.

The newspaper quoted from the recording of a June 30, 1971, Oval Office meeting in which Nixon told Chief of Staff H.R. Haldeman to "break in and take it out" and "file the files" of the Washington DC-based Brookings Institution.

A spokesman at the Richard Nixon library in Yorba Linda, California, could not immediately be reached for comment. Nixon resigned in 1974 after being implicated in a cover-up of a break-in at Democratic National Committee headquarters in the Watergate Building in Washington. The 1971 meeting happened a year before the Watergate burglary.

Nixon died in 1994.

There is no evidence his order to burglarize Brookings was ever carried out, the Examiner said. But it said the tape was the first hard evidence that Nixon personally ordered a break-in to gather political intelligence on his enemies.

The 1971 meeting was included in 201 hours of Nixon tapes recently released by the National Archives, the Examiner said. It said Nixon called the meeting after the Supreme Court ruled that The New York Times and the Washington Post were within their rights to publish the Pentagon Papers, leaked Defense Department documents on US military involvement in Vietnam.

Former Pentagon analyst Daniel Ellsberg leaked the Pentagon Papers and several of his close

Police foil bomb attack in N. Ireland

BELFAST (Reuters) - British forces defused a huge car bomb left outside police headquarters in Northern Ireland's second city of Londonderry yesterday, police said.

The Continuity Army group had previously claimed responsibility for planting a car bomb in Belfast in July which was blown up in a controlled explosion by the army.

They were also held responsible for the bomb which wrecked the Killyhelvin Hotel in Enniskillen and injured 17 people in July. The Continuity Army is believed to be the military wing of Republican Sinn Fein, a hard-line group which broke away from Sinn Fein, the IRA's political wing, in 1986.

The incident further dampened hopes for a return to peace in the province and raised fears about whether the "Loyalist" truce would hold. The IRA, the main republican guerrilla group, ended its 17-month truce last February, setting off bombs in mainland Britain and at military bases in Germany and Northern Ireland.

Multi-party talks on Northern Ireland's political future are bogged down. Strenuous political efforts are being made to win a new IRA truce but Irish Foreign Minister Dick Spring said he had no information about whether such a cease-fire was imminent.

London Underground resumes after total power failure

LONDON (AP) - It was a good night for taxi drivers, but a bad one for commuters, when London's Underground system was shut down by a power failure Wednesday night.

Normal service was restored yesterday morning for the Underground, which carries 2.7 million passengers a day, London Transport said.

The 393 km. system ground to a halt at about 9:45 p.m. Wednesday when an electrical generator failed. No injuries were reported. London Transport said most passengers had been freed from stalled trains by 10:30, and most lines had a very limited service after midnight.

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If you've been following this space, you know that on August 9, in his weekly financial newsletter, International currency expert Brian Marber recommended investing in British pound futures, then trading at approximately 1.5480 against the U.S. dollar. The British pound has risen steadily ever since.

As of November 14, the British pound reached a new high of 1.6820. On an initial investment of \$2000 in one futures contract in August, that could have translated into a total profit of \$8375 - an increase of 419% after all commissions!

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At least 19 killed, 50 hurt in Puerto Rico gas explosion

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP) - An explosion at a shoe store sheared the side off a six-story building yesterday, killing at least 19 people, injuring 50 and leaving 11 missing. Authorities believe leaking natural gas caused the blast.

The 8:35 a.m. explosion ripped a 15-meter-wide hole up the side of the building, exposing offices and apartments. It left a tangle of concrete and steel beams that filled a city block and shattered windows in nearby buildings and cars.

"There were just parts of bodies lying in the street, torsos, bones, cars blasted against the building," said Ramon Camino, a doctor who arrived at the scene shortly after the explosion.

NEWS IN FOCUS

Friday, November 22, 1996

7

'You promised, we believed, you betrayed'

Right-wing activists voted for Binyamin Netanyahu because they believed he would turn back the Oslo clock. Now they feel disappointed by him, Bill Hutman reports

THEY call themselves "the disappointed" and "the betrayed." No one can count their number exactly, but they are out there, feeling gloomy and distressed, when they had hoped to be basking in the glory of a great success. The *meuchavim*, as they are known in Hebrew, are an apparently growing number of hard-core backers of Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu — who voted for him because they opposed the Oslo agreements — who in recent months have had second thoughts about their support.

Now, the *meuchavim* face a major decision about how they should vent their opposition to Netanyahu.

For most of them, it is a question of whether to take to the streets again to protest against the government, as during the Rabin and Peres regimes. For a smaller minority of extremists, violence also is considered a potential tactic.

Security officials have issued repeated warnings that redeployment in Hebron is likely to spark a violent reaction in extremist Jewish circles, and that the prime minister himself might be a target.

Still, the *meuchavim* are for the most part law-abiding citizens. They are upset with the government and struggling with how to express their opposition.

"You promised, we believed, you betrayed" is the title of a statement released this week by the Women in Green, a group that was among the most vocal opponents of the Labor government and a strong backer of Netanyahu during the election campaign. Nadia Matar, the group's leader, says the slogan sums up the feeling today of many Netanyahu supporters who count themselves among the *meuchavim*.

Representatives of an array of right-wing groups, including Zo Artzenu and Women in Green, have been meeting in recent weeks to come up with a formula for, as they see it, "getting Netanyahu back on track." The Council of Jewish Communities in Judea, Samaria and Gaza also has been considering possible action.

The decision is far from simple. Protesting against Rabin and Peres was intended to benefit the political opposition. Today, despite the anger

with Netanyahu, no one on the right wants Peres or anyone else in the opposition to return to power. The complexity of the decision the *meuchavim* face explains the council's flip-flop in recent weeks.

At a heated emergency meeting three weeks ago, the council made what was presented as a dramatic decision to demonstrate against the planned redeployment in Hebron, and the slowness of settlement development. The next day, the threat to take to the streets was dropped, after a meeting between council heads and Netanyahu. Council of Jewish Communities members left the meeting saying they were promised settlements would be cut free of restrictions on development.

Yet the settlement restrictions were not lifted, at least as much as the council wanted, so it again voiced its threat to demonstrate against the government. Last Friday, there was a small sit-down strike by council members outside the Prime Minister's Office.

But the plans for wide-scale protests heralded at the emergency meeting remain on hold. Council leaders say they are reluctant to enter a public confrontation with Netanyahu and prefer to continue quiet lobbying to change government policy.

"You can't hold demonstrations every day," said council director-general Aharon Domb, in an interview this week in *Ha'aretz*. "You can't ignore the fact that the situation has changed. The tools that are used must reflect the situation. Public pressure is not just demonstrations. Organizing Likud Committee members can be just as effective."

The council, however, is under pressure to act. Under Rabin and Peres, grass-roots groups were the first to call for big public protests, with the settlers' council eventually following. That may again be the case. "Many in the national camp are slow to wake up," said Women in Green's Matar.

This week, the Women in Green came out strongly for public protest against Netanyahu's policies in Judea and Samaria. "Certainly, we can wait no longer, when all indications are that by silence, and not criticizing Bibi, we are blindly showing



Dr. Esther Beit-Halohmi, of the right-wing group Women in Green holds a placard as a Palestinian passerby comes by for a closer look. (Brian Hendler)

support for a man who has not at all proven himself as yet to be a strong and inspirational leader," the group said. "While we do not in any way wish to partake in bringing this government down, we have decided that it is beneficial to the national cause to raise our voices in a vigorous protest when we see the ominous signs of the direction which the present government is taking."

Accordingly, we have decided to take decisive action criticizing Netanyahu for his failure to date to carry out what he had promised the Jewish people."

small protest in front of the prime minister's residence.

This week, Habad, which during the election strongly backed Netanyahu, openly showed its displeasure with the prime minister's policies in the territories. Thousands of Habad followers converged on Hebron Tuesday evening to protest against planned redeployment. Habad, unlike the Women in Green, has the numbers and influence to make Netanyahu listen. Several weeks ago, Habad leaders met the prime minister to press him to make no concessions in the territories. They left the meeting disappointed.

Habad spokesman Menachem Brod said the movement has second thoughts about its campaign slogan, "Bibi - Good for the Jews."

"We have made our position clear to the prime minister," Brod said. "But we also know that we must be careful, because we all know that the alternative to Bibi is Peres or some-

one else in Labor, and that we certainly don't want."

There are *meuchavim*, however, who are not satisfied with normal protest. They "have decided to go out and look for their own future leader," said Matar.

"The issue has already been raised at the weekly meetings of the smaller right-wing groups. It is too early to speak of particular names. But someone else will come up, and we

must already begin laying the groundwork."

Moshe Feiglin, head of Zo Artzenu, and Yehuda Etzion, a leader of the Jewish underground, have joined forces in a quest "to find a new Jewish leadership," as they explain in a leaflet distributed at synagogues in Judea and Samaria last Shabbat.

"We have already established a small committee to search for a new

candidate for premiership — not someone from the left or right, but someone that believes in the real values of Israel and Judaism," says Etzion.

Etzion classes himself with the *meuchavim*, but says he has taken the term a step further than it generally is understood. Most *meuchavim* have lost faith with Netanyahu, Etzion and a few others have lost faith with the entire system.

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Gazans take part in a recent cleanup in Khan Yunis sponsored by Interns for Peace.

Gazans get angry while nothing changes

As living standards fall and tensions rise, an eerie feeling of violence and hope fills the air, Steve Rodan reports from the streets of Khan Yunis

FRIDAY morning in Khan Yunis and the streets of Gaza's second largest town are empty. The exception is a group of young people on Baher Street, many of them wielding brooms. It's the annual cleanup day in this city - sponsored by Interns for Peace, financed by a European Union grant, and attended by youngsters from around the strip.

"They came to school and said, 'Do you want to come to the promenade?'" recalls Ahmed Maslah, a 13-year-old boy from Khan Yunis. "So, I came and worked."

The cleanup, however, is a bright spot in the dismal state of the Gaza Strip. Two months after their gun battles with Israel around the territories, Palestinians appear to have sunk even deeper into despair as they feel trapped with increasing unemployment, a decreasing standard of living, restricted freedom of movement, and greater dependence on Israel - which is greater than ever.

"The mood in Gaza among the people is one of anger over the fact that nothing is changing," says Wadie Abu Nassar, a lecturer at the Open University and a specialist on Palestinian affairs. "The simple people don't care if [Palestinian Authority chief Yasser] Arafat is strong or not. They care if they have food and right cow prices are rising all the time. People had high expectations and the comedown has been drastic." Palestinian officials quietly acknowledge that the economic depression quickly erased the euphoria Gazans expressed after the September gun battles. The result is that Arafat and his aides are once again raising the specter of renewed violence against

Israel.

"We are at a crossroads," Hassan Asfour, a leading Palestinian negotiator, told the Voice of Palestine on Tuesday. "The Israeli government can't force itself on us as a foreign power in areas under control of the PA." But the mood in Gaza does not appear militant. As one Palestinian described it, it's every person out for himself. On the upper scale of society, most of the Western-educated Palestinians who came from Europe and the US to help the PA have long left. Further down the scale, Palestinian women are beginning to sell their jewelry - acquired as part of their dowry - to make ends meet.

Muna Hreibe has other concerns on her mind. Her 20-year-old son Khalil is to Nasser Hospital with a bullet in his stomach. Muna and a family friend are introduced to a visitor when they begin to wail. Khalil, they say, was shot by Israeli troops outside the Jewish settlement of Kfar Darom during the Palestinian attacks in September. He needs proper care. Nasser Hospital in Khan Yunis doesn't even have an X-ray machine. "Muna says, 'He was never in the police.'"

The visitor, however, doesn't understand what Khalil was doing in the clash at Kfar Darom, where

hundreds of young Palestinians, backed up by the fire of PA police, hurled rocks and firebombs and attempted to scale the walls of the Jewish settlement in what Israeli officials maintain was part of a widespread offensive supported by Arafat.

Fathi Salaam Wadi shakes his head slowly and explains. His version of the fighting is that the Israeli soldiers fired into a crowd of what was basically a peaceful protest at Kfar Darom. "The events are the result of the actions of the Israeli authorities," says Wadi, secretary of the Palestinian Movement to Support Peace and Equality, a body that meets with Israeli left-wing groups. "The Palestinian people came to protest the closure, and the Israeli army responded by shooting. Many civilians were shot and the police tried to keep the people away from the shooting. When several of the Palestinian officers were shot in the process, they opened fire to protect themselves. They did so without any orders from the PA."

Muna returns to pleading for her son. She is not choosy. Khalil can be transferred to Tel Hashomer Hospital or eastern Jerusalem's Mokassas Hospital. Just get him out of Gaza. "He has problems with his legs," Muna says in a now calm voice. "He needs an operation. We are calling on all the nations. We don't have the capability here. We went to Abu Amar [Arafat]." She cries again.

Wadi intervenes. "Patience, patience," he says. A young man adds, "Only Allah can help."

BY NOW, an hour into the effort, the youngsters have stopped sweeping. Organizers had planned to clean a large portion of Baher Street, which extends from downtown Khan Yunis to the sea, but it appears that no more than 100 meters of the thoroughfare will have been swept. Instead, the men and women counselors of Interns for Peace, largely students from Al Azhar University, continue the job while the youngsters pose for photographs.

Majid Halil Abu Murahel, however, is still going at it. He is no counselor. He is a hero in the Gaza Strip. At the recent Olympics in Atlanta, Murahel was part of the first delegation of Palestinians to participate. Murahel recalls the weeks in Atlanta in an even voice. He met US President Bill Clinton; was interviewed by scores of journalists, and ran in the 10 km race. It took 31 minutes, he says, but doesn't remember what spot he took. The important thing, he says, is that Palestine was finally represented in

A delicate task ahead

Tariq Zaid, who is set to become head of Hebron's Palestinian police, tells Tom Gross he is optimistic about the future



I am personally ready to go and live with the Jews in Kiryat Arba, to show them that we can live together," says Tariq Zaid, the man who will shortly be responsible for a team of 850 Palestinian police officers in and around Hebron.

"Peace is not about one party being strong and the other weak. There's no peace with inequality," he says. "We want an end to this bloody war."

Interviewed last weekend in the village of Bani Naim, seven kilometers west of Hebron, Zaid seemed on the whole reasonable, friendly, even warm, despite his reputation among Palestinians as a hard man who brooks no nonsense.

"I think Zaid really means it," says a well-informed source close to the Council of Jewish Communities in Judea, Samaria and Gaza. "He'd really go and live in Kiryat Arba. He is willing to put his wife and children in the hands of the settlers as a guarantee that settlers can trust his police to protect their children."

But Zaid has a harsher side too, and not all of his opinions were so reasonable, as became apparent towards the end of the interview. He was, as he describes it, a "commander in the field" for 30 years, "in Lebanon, Syria, Tunisia, Yemen," although he refuses to specify exactly what he did, admitting only that he was in an unnamed "mobile unit." In fact, it has been reported that he coordinated Katyusha rocket attacks on Galilee prior to the 1982 war.

Zaid went on to establish his reputation among Palestinians in Lebanon in 1982, distinguishing himself by his willingness to stay and fight following the Israeli invasion, rather than fleeing as many other senior PLO figures did. Add to this his close ties to some of the Abu Smeil clan, Hebron's largest family, and many believe he's the right man to deal with the very delicate task of policing a town of Hebron, home to some of the most extreme elements on both sides of the Arab-Israeli divide.

Not surprisingly, Zaid is a close confidant of Yasser Arafat. "We lived together in tents in Jordan," he says. "I am one of the people who the president trusts very strongly."

Born in a village near Tiberias in 1946 and now a father of two boys and three girls ("My youngest son is an officer in the police," he announced proudly), Zaid says he is fully prepared for his new role.

"We are completely ready to deploy. It's simply a political decision. It should have been done months ago. The Israelis say they need six hours to redeploy. I have told them we need only three hours to be fully in control."

The 400 police who will be in Hebron itself have been trained at the police academy in Jericho. Most are now waiting in — about 15 km. south of Hebron. In addition, 450 more police will be based in five nearby villages.

"All vehicles and equipment are ready. Our police will have Kalashnikovs and pistols. Even if the political agreement says they should not carry weapons, we shall carry everything that we need to maintain security. Of course we should be properly armed. Just as a good woman should have a strong man, so a good police should have strong weapons, in order to do its job and uphold the agreement."

Over the past seven weeks of negotiations, media reports have indicated time and again that the parties were days, hours even, from signing an agreement, that redeployment was imminent. Were they

Zaid: We can be in control within three hours. (Tom Gross)

becoming frustrated waiting? Was there discontent in the ranks of his police?

"We have patience. If we had allowed ourselves to become frustrated, we would have been finished a long time ago. We do not know what the word means," he says, sitting at a desk in front of a large lace-net curtain made of Palestinian national colors, in a sparsely furnished office. Zaid was accompanied by several men, most of whom were in civilian clothes. At least two were bodyguards and one was almost certainly a minder from Jibril Rajoub's Preventive Security Service.

Zaid says he is confident that everything would go smoothly during and after redeployment. "I am an optimist. We only hear that there will be problems because of Israeli scaremongering. I think there will not be problems. The Israeli side can control the settlers."

But if there were any "provocations" by the settlers, how would he respond? "There is an agreement. Both sides should respect it. The Israeli side should take care of security among the settlers. But of course we have the right to defend ourselves, and will do so if necessary, though with wisdom."

And if the settlers want to come to Arab areas, to shop for groceries, for example? "They will be welcome. Israel will remove their weapons."

Zaid says he is not worried about problems on the Palestinian side, from Hamas and Islamic Jihad. "We've agreed with the other [Palestinian] parties that they will not try and touch the agreement. Our security police will deal strongly with any breach."

He is not, he said, taking any measures in advance of redeployment. "We have not arrested anyone or confiscated anything. Hebron is still under Israeli occupation and we are not allowed to do anything."

Nor, he says, will he do so after redeployment. "We will respect all opposition parties as long as they respect the agreement. We are sure our people will obey orders." In any case, he added, he was confident he could deal with any terror threat. "We actually have more experience than anybody because we've lived in many countries and seen different methods. We would change passports with ease. I personally had several. It is difficult now for others to trick us," he says.

"Recently there was a course for the Palestinian police in Holland. When I went there, a Dutch official asked me, 'So is this your first trip to the Netherlands?' and I told him, 'No, I've been here many times before.'"

"There has been a big change in my situation in life," he says. "Before we were unwanted in these countries, now we are welcomed as guests."

Zaid also confirmed that a strong chemistry and mutual understanding had developed between high-ranking Palestinian military figures and their Israeli counterparts. "Before the Palestinian Authority came into existence Rabin wanted the sea to come and cover up Gaza. Now they see it can exist separately."

As for the settlers, he says he is "ready to invite anyone to my office, to make a meeting man to man." He says there is no one from

among the Jewish community in Hebron he is not prepared to meet. He has, in fact, already been building bridges with the settler community, though he is reluctant to divulge too much information for fear of jeopardizing these fragile contacts (although he did say he had "friends in the Likud, including an MK").

Zaid admits that meetings have already taken place with "other settlers, who have conveyed messages to the Hebron settlers," although he refused to confirm that it was he who had personally met them. "The last meeting was about eight or so days ago. They said they are ready to live here under Palestinian rule," he says.

HOWEVER, on the crucial question of whether Jews can live in Hebron should the town come fully under Palestinian authority at a later date, Zaid was ambiguous. "All Jews who own houses here can stay and are welcome," he says. But when pressed, he refused to specify whether he was referring to all of today's Jewish community, who the PA claim are "illegally occupying" their homes, or only pre-1929 Jewish land owners.

Zaid was clearer on another matter. If in the future Hebron comes under complete Palestinian sovereignty, he says Jews will still definitely be welcome as tourists or religious pilgrims. "Just as I have the right to visit Tel Aviv, which I'm looking forward to doing."

Zaid says he has not played any direct role during the present negotiations. "I am a policeman, not a politician, although obviously the Palestinian negotiators consult us, they need to know what is going on on the ground. I am sure the Palestinian side will not [give way on the key remaining issues in dispute,] hot pursuit or the full reopening of Shubadeh Street [the main artery through Hebron's Jewish quarter]. Only to open it step by step would divide the city in two. Peace is not a question of how long a street is," he says.

Throughout the interview, Zaid had seemed like a modernist who had accepted historic compromise with the Jewish state. Yet at the end, he suddenly made comments that very much suggested he was part of the old guard. He referred to Israel as the "occupied land," at which point one of the others in the room told him to stop saying this.

But Zaid went on to say that he believed that in the future Jews and Arabs will all live together. "The two sides will come together into one" - and there would be only one country between the Jordan River and the Mediterranean Sea.

Who would run it? "It will be a democracy, so whoever is in the majority," he said.

Was he really sure of this? "I am as sure as I see you now in front of me with my own eyes, that in the end there will be one country, and in the final agreement I will get my land - a house and 6000 dunams near Tiberias - back," he said emphatically. "This is not some dream. Two years ago, people would have said I was dreaming if I said I would be sitting here now in this office."

In fact this is what 95 percent of Palestinian Authority officials say in private," says one prominent Israeli with close ties to the PA. "They think that in the end the Jews will see the light and accept minority status within one state. Zaid is not only more honest, he is in fact better than many other top PA officials. He believes in confederation, with dual citizenship, full rights to buy and sell property, etc."

"As far as it is possible to tell, Zaid is more a man clinging to a naive dream, rather than a calculating strategist who has crafted some plan of stages to eventually eradicate Israel by force."

It is hard to decipher what Zaid really thinks. On the one hand he seems like a smiling moderate. But one also senses a certain amount of double talk, which casts doubts on whether he intends to fully respect the Oslo accords. In any case Zaid seems to be doing enough to win important friends. "He is a man of honor in a dishonorable situation," the settler from the council of Jewish communities says.

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Not all is quiet on the northern front

The IDF is in the midst of a war of attrition in south Lebanon. **Arieh O'Sullivan** visited soldiers in bunkers there as they prepare for the winter

THE young lieutenant cracks a grin at his Golani platoon — three days on the front — as they don their gear, strap up their helmets, and check their rifles. Twenty-four soldiers have been killed in Lebanon so far this year, some by anti-tank missiles, some by booby traps, and others in firefights.

"Every mother of these guys is expecting me to return her son healthy and in one piece. The responsibility about it is hard enough," said Second Lieutenant Alon Babayan. "But we want to kill terrorists. That's our job and that's why we are here. We came here to kill," the 21-year-old platoon commander added.

High up above him, on the ramparts of the Crusader Beaufort castle, the blue-and-white Israeli flag snaps in the wind. Fourteen years after it was conquered in a bloody battle, the fortress still remains in the hands of the IDF. It, along with a classified number of other outposts scattered throughout south Lebanon, is the backbone of the static war of attrition with Hizbullah, and it serves as a visible buffer from cross-border guerrilla attacks.

The nature of the security zone has changed drastically since the IDF set up the outposts when it withdrew the bulk of its forces from Lebanon in 1985, after a three-year occupation. They were placed on highly visible peaks to serve as a deterrent to Palestinian guerrillas wishing to infiltrate into Israel. Today, the enemy has changed, and for the Iranian-backed Hizbullah gunmen who have taken their place, the hill-top bunkers and trenches are nothing more than targets.

Even to go to the toilet, soldiers have to don their flak vests and helmets. It's a place where every hour outside a man finds himself confined in body armor.

"You can't know what it's like, man. At any moment a [mortar] round can hit this outpost. You can go crazy," says Ra'anan Hartman, a bespectacled, 20-year-old radio operator who has spent many months on the front.

Over the past two years the IDF has invested tens of millions of shekels fortifying the outposts. All barracks, dining rooms, kitchens, showers and latrines are buried under concrete and iron — cosmetic adjustments.



At Beaufort, even to go to the toilet, soldiers have to don their flak vests and helmets.

"Just because the army needs to protect us doesn't mean we are scared or frightened. It's simply a war," said Babayan.

The IDF has to walk a fine line. The Hizbullah wants to escalate what is known as a "low-intensity conflict" situation, and constantly snipes at the IDF, prodding it into massive, Grapes of Wrath-like retaliation. The IDF wants to prevent Katyusha rockets from threatening the north, while keeping casualties to a minimum.

The army readily admits it is hypersensitive to casualties. Brigadier-General Itzik Elimelech, head of IDF ordnance, says they have spared no costs providing the very best for troops on Israel's last active battle front. Soldiers are given modern flak vests, improved helmets and night scopes. Some combat units are supplied with foam mattresses to be used while lying in ambush. Electrically heated sleeping bags, battery-charged, heated insoles and Vered Hagallil chocolates are also being handed out.

"We are devoting everything to make sure their operational activities are not restricted due to logistics," Elimelech says.

The IDF is one of the most advanced military machines in the world. It enjoys complete air

superiority. Its radar picks up any movement, night or day, and despite the incessant casualties, its troops, like the Golani at Beaufort, are highly motivated, almost bursting for action.

"We're expecting confrontation. We have trained for it," says Corporal Avi Ayash, 19, on his second tour in south Lebanon. "What I'm doing is important because we are defending the state."

His buddy Sergeant Gil Sharabi cuts in: "If we weren't here then we would be in Kiryat Shmona, and Hizbullah would be hitting civilians. There is nothing imperialistic about our presence here."

The soldiers are clomping at the bit. But Hizbullahi doesn't fight fair.

A senior IDF commander with rich battle experience in Lebanon admits that the IDF's defensive strategy is unclear. The commander, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said that it's difficult to create a deterrence because the IDF strategy is based on defending territory and maintaining the strength of the IDF. But there are operational difficulties: The IDF cannot implement its superiority in south Lebanon, where a non-conventional war is being fought.

Adopting classic guerrilla tactics, Hizbullah has located the IDF weak points — the supply

convoys, the umbilical cords to the combat troops. Just one foot across the border and you are deep inside Lebanon. Half the soldiers killed this year died from roadside charges while patrolling or moving in convoys.

Elimelech says they have invested heavily to give the outposts "more breathing room" by increasing their storage facilities. Supplies are now delivered less frequently, thus reducing the ebbs of targets.

The IDF has also paved alternative, less-exposed routes across the security zone. Bulldozers have cleared away all large buildings to 20 meters from the sides of roads, and set up cement walls at sensitive sites to block Sagger missiles. Between the walls, drivers simply speed up.

Every time a convoy moves, it requires a military operation of minute detail. Soldiers are sent from their outposts to guard suspected ambush sites. The 20-kilometer ride to Beaufort Castle becomes a 50-minute roller coaster. Every civilian is suspected of being a Hizbullah gunman. Every car, a potential suicide bomb.

But the civilians of south Lebanon have learned the rules. Whenever a convoy is on the road, local cars pull over waiting for it to pass before venturing on.

Lebanese villagers nearby appear oblivious as they hang out their laundry, whilst children chase chickens in the yard.

Still, the nature of war in south Lebanon is changing, at times more quickly than the IDF can keep up with. In the first 10 months of this year, some 100 roadside charges were being discovered, mostly in March and April. "We can certainly see an improvement and advancement in the sophistication of the charges the Hizbullah is laying," Brigadier-General Eliezer Toledano, commander of the Combat Engineer Corps, told the recent issue of the IDF weekly *Bamahaneh*. He said most of the charges are set off by sophisticated remote control.

"The Hizbullah learns the operation methods of our troops and succeeds in adapting the type and shape of charges to IDF activity," Toledano was quoted as saying.

Hizbullah is constantly improving its bombs and this is mainly manifested in the way they are detonated. Whenever a bomb is detected, IDF sappers immediately go into action, sealing off the area, questioning soldiers and trying to figure out how Hizbullah planned on using the bomb. All this before disarming it.

Toledano added that Hizbullah guerrillas were sneaking up close

to IDF posts than in the past to lay charges. "But we can see laying charges as a type of fear. Laying charges is a preventive method which doesn't obligate Hizbullah to deal face-to-face with an IDF force. They lay the charges and get out of there," Toledano said.

At Beaufort, First Sergeant Assaf points out what appears to be a regular rock. Turning it over it becomes a fiberglass copy perfect for concealing bombs. The imitation rocks, like the sophisticated detonators, are believed to be manufactured in Iran.

According to the London-based

Jane's World Armies, the IDF's advanced electronic warfare constantly sends off signals which sets off bombs. In one incident this year, *Jane's* said, six Hizbullah guerrillas were killed in such a way as they were laying the device. Israel's electronic success has been so great, according to *Jane's*, that Hizbullah has returned to the old trip-wire method of detonation. Just last month, paratrooper company commander Major Uri Azulai set off such a device killing himself and another soldier — just north of Beaufort.

Two weeks later, Hizbullah guerrillas twice fired Sagger missiles at upgraded M-60 tanks killing one soldier and wounding five others. At Beaufort, the crew of a Merkava tank shakes off a similar fate. "Those guys got hurt because they didn't behave right," says Yehuda, a bulky 21-year-old gunman who boasts he has already two kills under his belt.

How did it feel?
"It felt good," Yehuda draws.

SENIOR IDF commanders say that it is a mistaken concept that the Israeli army is the only element in this battlefield which is sensitive to casualties. "The Hizbullah, too, won't waste their soldiers. They are not going to send them on suicide missions. Their tactic is to hit us at our weak points and never confront us on an equal basis. They will attack only when victory is assured. And one more thing, they are out to hurt us, not to eliminate us," the senior commander said.

A convoy out of Beaufort prepares to leave. The November drizzle ceases. Reports are relayed to patrols on the road back to Israel. Those getting out on leave look forward to being able to walk in a T-shirt, to feel the breeze in their cropped hair. No helmets and no flak vests for a whole week. Their comrades staying back break out in song: "Oh to be in Lebanon," the Golani troops sing. "I think of my woman all day long. It's me again on watch. The heavy machine-gun is cocked and the safety open. I see you between the sights. I dream of you, Oh, when will my dream on the line be up?"

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The Party of God's goals: Remove IDF, 'liberate Jerusalem'

HIZBULLAH, or Party of God, is an Iranian-backed Islamic fundamentalist group which wants to see Moslem rule throughout Lebanon. Based in Beirut, its declared goal is first to remove the Israel Defense Forces from Lebanese territory, and second to "liberate Jerusalem."

Catering to the Shi'ite population in Lebanon, Hizbullah uses the \$80-100 million funds it receives, the bulk of which comes from Iran, for social-welfare projects to win the people over. The Hizbullah in south Lebanon is unique among guerrilla movements in that the local population is dependent on it to run its schools, mosques and social-welfare projects. In return, all Shi'ite men are conscripted to a non-operational body and undergo a form of military training.

Still, the number of hard-core fighters is estimated at only 1,000 full-time troops. These include an elite force, internal security and Revolutionary Guards. They have a limited, but deadly, arsenal of Sagger anti-armor missiles, light arms and heavy mortars.

Their supply of Katyushas is said to have been replenished from Iran, via Syria, and they are suspected of having obtained a number of powerful 240-mm Katyushas with a range of more than 40 kilometers — although these reports have not been confirmed.

If true, Hizbullah would be able to strike at the Haifa Bay area, and deploy deeper into Lebanon should it resume attacks on Israeli civilians. **A.O.**

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It was 33 years ago today...

I cried and cried and cried. The last time I recalled crying that hard for a public figure was when president Roosevelt died just before the end of World War II."

Elaine Kallet, a poet and artist from Jerusalem who made aliya in 1988, was recalling her reactions to the news of president John F. Kennedy's assassination, 33 years ago today. The crying, the feelings of devastation and fear, figured in the reminiscences of four former Americans living here, all of whom drew a possible analogy between the public reactions to JFK's assassination and that of Yitzhak Rabin's last year.

All four remembered vividly where they had been and the circumstances under which they had learned of the two assassinations. Why did the JFK assassination elicit such widespread feelings of fear? What were you frightened of?

Kallet says there was talk that the underworld had had Kennedy killed. And then there was the fear of the Russians. (The JFK assassination came about a year after the confrontation over Soviet missiles in Cuba).

US immigrants draw parallels between the Rabin and Kennedy assassinations. Yosef Goell reports

Prof. David Ritchie of the Hebrew University Political Science Department was in Caesar Hall at Harvard, where he was a graduate student. He recalls people crying and church bells ringing and that same sense of fear. As a political science student, he remembers thinking that just because Kennedy was shot, it didn't necessarily mean that he would die. Previous presidents who had been shot, from Lincoln through Garfield and McKinley, had died because of the botched ministrations of doctors using the less-developed medicines that were available a century ago.

"What were we frightened of? The fact that something so unexpected had happened to suddenly remove the person who was looking after the store for the rest of us. I was never that committed to Kennedy. He was not terribly

effective but he made the right noises.

"I believe that the analogy to the effect on the public that the Rabin assassination had does hold water. Many of us feel similarly devastated over Rabin's murder because of that same feeling of the sudden and violent removal of the major actor who was taking care of things for all of us."

Barbara Heller, a Jerusalem real-estate agent, recalls hearing of the JFK assassination on the radio while teaching at the experimental school in Harlem, New York. "I went into the streets and saw other people who were as horrified as I was. We felt cut off, alone, devastated. As if someone had stuck a knife into us."

"I felt the same way about the Rabin assassination. In both cases I felt, 'What is the world

coming to?' I still feel that way about Kennedy, although I no longer believe he was a great president. In his style, however, he was a true representative of a new generation of Americans."

Dov Levy, who came on aliya 18 years ago and is now retired in the Jerusalem suburb of Mevasseret Zion, recalls going out into the streets in Detroit and finding them empty. "It was like after an earthquake. I remember feeling that nothing was ever going to be the same again."

"I deeply identified with Kennedy. I had grown up in Boston and was familiar with JFK as a rough-and-tumble politician. But I admired his youth and his style. It was his oratory and the spirit of the times that he represented that persuaded me to go into public service with the Civil Rights Commission."

Judy Nussbaum, formerly of the Hebrew University's School for Overseas Students, recalls learning about the JFK assassination when she was pregnant with her second child and shopping in a New Jersey suburb.

"I saw all the salesgirls crying. I wasn't emotionally committed to Kennedy, but I was just as shocked. 'I can't help thinking that just as we still don't know the full truth about the JFK assassination, we also don't know the full truth behind the Rabin assassination. For example, we do know that [Avishai] Ravid was a planted [General Security Service] provocateur in the groups around the assassin Yigal Amir."

Prof. Ritchie doesn't believe in conspiracy theories, "because I am used to making up my mind on the basis of hard facts, and even 33 years later there are no hard facts to back up the JFK conspiracy theory. But I simply don't buy the scenario that Oswald could have got off three shots from the S25 rifle he had picked up and have killed Kennedy alone from that distance."

"I think one of the differences between the two cases is that even if we never got an entirely satisfactory explanation for Oswald's motives and actions we can definitely think of him as some sort of weirdo; in the case of Yigal Amir there is something that quite definitely went wrong with our Judaism itself."

"What bothers me about the country's reaction to the Rabin assassination is that while some rabbis initially admitted that Amir's background showed that there were some real problems in Judaism, leading religious politicians refused to say so, too."

"Admittedly, Rabin supporters did come out too strongly against the entire national religious camp, but it would have helped if [NRP leader Zevulun] Hammer and others in his camp would have come out openly and admitted to the serious dangers inherent in taking religious politics to extremes."

Elaine Kallet says, "I was never a Rabin fan because I am somewhat right wing in my politics here. What especially shocked me was the thought that it was a fellow Jew who killed him."

"One of the differences between the two cases and our two countries is that here all of us are so profoundly and personally involved in the big political issues of the day. In this regard I believe that our leaders definitely flubbed the possibility of 'using' the Rabin assassination to try to forge a greater sense of national unity and to bind up the nation's wounds. The election campaign and Netanyahu's election didn't help."

"But I mostly blame Peres and his crowd for failing to overcome the deep divisions in our society. It would have taken a lot of doing but had they put their mind to it I



An uncanny likeness (top): In 1963, Jacqueline Kennedy leans over President John F. Kennedy as an unidentified Secret Service agent stands on the bumper of the presidential car after the president was shot; in a similar 1995 photo, Israeli security personnel push Rabin into a car just after he was wounded. (AP/Photo)



Abraham Lincoln John F. Kennedy (Camera Press)

The strange case of Lincoln and Kennedy

THE assassinations of presidents Abraham Lincoln and John F. Kennedy were linked by an amazing series of coincidences, according to an entry in *The Reader's Digest Book of Strange Stories, Amazing Facts*.

Abraham Lincoln was first elected to Congress in 1846. John Kennedy followed exactly 100 years later. Lincoln was elected as the 16th president of the United States on November 6, 1860. Kennedy was elected to be the 35th president on November 8, 1960. After their deaths they were both succeeded by Southerners named Johnson. Andrew Johnson was born in 1808. Lyndon Johnson in 1908. John Wilkes Booth, the man who killed Lincoln, was born in 1839, while Lee Harvey Oswald, Kennedy's killer, was born in 1939. Both men were Southerners, and both were themselves shot before they could come to trial.

Booth committed his crime in a theater and then ran to a warehouse. Oswald pulled the trigger on Kennedy from the window of a warehouse and ran to a theater.

On the day he was assassinated Lincoln told a guard, William H. Crook: "I believe there are men who want to take my life... And I have no doubt they will do it... If it is to be done, it is impossible to prevent it."

And Kennedy unsuspectingly told his wife, Jackie, and his personal adviser Ken O'Donnell: "If anyone really wanted to shoot the president of the United States, it's not a very hard job. All that one has to do is get to a high building some day, with a telescope rifle, and there is nothing anybody can do."

"Some day" proved to be that day. He was shot two-and-a-half hours later.

Lincoln and Kennedy were both historic civil-rights campaigners, and both were shot on a Friday, in the back of their head. Their wives were with them.

Lincoln was shot in Ford's Theater. Kennedy was shot in an automobile made by the Ford Motor Company - a Lincoln.

One final, unhappy coincidence is that Lincoln had a secretary named Kennedy, who advised him not to go to the theater in Washington on that fateful day... Kennedy had a secretary named Lincoln who strongly advised him against going to Dallas.

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German Anti-Semitism Reconsidered

at The VAN LEER JERUSALEM INSTITUTE

Tuesday, November 26:

19:00 Opening Session: The Nature of German Anti-Semitism

M. Zimmermann, (Jerusalem): The Rise and Fall of German Anti-Semitism

O. Heilbroner, (Jerusalem): German Anti-Semitism in the 19th and early 20th Century

S. Aschheim, (Jerusalem): The Goldhagen Affair and the German-Jewish Dialogue

Wednesday, November 27:

9:00 Traditional Anti-Judaism

M. Toch, (Jerusalem): The Medieval Face

J. Friedrich Battenberg, (Darmstadt): Early Modern Germany

11:00 The Historian and Anti-Semitism

G. G. Iggers, (Buffalo): Academic Anti-Semitism 1870 - 1933

P. von Papen, (New York): Scientific Anti-Semitism in the Third Reich

R. Wistrich, (Jerusalem): Some Thoughts on the Goldhagen Controversy

15:00 Anti-Semitism in the Second Reich and the Weimar Republic

O. Blaschke, (Bielefeld): German Catholics during the Second Reich

R. J. Evans, (London): The German Working Class 1870 - 1933

A. Kauders, (London): Jewish Exclusion from the Weimar Polity

D. Bankier, (Jerusalem): Weimar Left from the Perspective of the Third Reich

Thursday, November 28:

9:00 Regional Aspects and Everyday Life

T. van Rahden, (Bielefeld): Breslau; G. Alexander, (Jerusalem): Berlin

E. Domke, (Haifa): Hamburg; Y. Borut, (Jerusalem): Western Germany

14:30 Toward the Final Solution?

S. Epstein, (Jerusalem): French Perceptions of German Anti-Semitism

U. Herbert, (Freiburg): The Intellectual Leadership of the SS

O. Bartov, (New Brunswick): Germans, Jews and the Holocaust

H. Mommsen, (Bochum): The Problem of Collective Responsibility

20:00 Panel Discussion: The German Anti-Semitism - A Sonderweg?

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The of
Vision
To dream

The messy question of who is a Jew

ONE sympathizes with those Jews and Jewish organizations that are once again up in arms over the proposed changes in Israel's conversion law, which would make only Orthodox conversions legally acceptable in Israel. From the perspective of the large majority of this country's and the world's Jews, who are far from Orthodox, why should Orthodox rabbis be granted a monopoly on deciding who is or is not, can or cannot become, a Jew?

There is, however, a problem with the demand of the Conservative and Reform movements that their rabbis, too, be allowed by Israeli law to perform conversions — these movements are asking not for the dismantling of a monopoly but for the right to be co-monopolists. If they were to have their way, instead of only Orthodox rabbis being allowed to confer membership in the Jewish people, only Orthodox, Conservative and Reform rabbis would be allowed.

One might ask: what other rabbis are there? To this question there are two answers — one perhaps trivial, the other going to the heart of the problematical modern Zionism. It may be trivial to point out that if you or I were to establish a rabbinical seminary tomorrow and start ordaining rabbis in the name of a new Jewish religious denomination, the first to object to its graduates performing recognized conversions would be the Conservative and Reform movements.

"How," they would say, "can you just come along and start turning out rabbis, without proper creden-

AGAINST THE GRAIN

HILLEL HALKIN

tials, without a solid anchor in Judaism, without even a certified academic program?" Although this is exactly how they themselves started out in the 19th and early 20th centuries, they would not welcome deregulated competition today.

Who elected these movements to represent us? In whose name speak? Orthodox rabbinic institutions at least have the weight of a long tradition behind them. But what is so special about the faculties of the Jewish Theological Seminary, the Hebrew Union College, or their various branches and offshoots that they should share the exclusive power to license Jews to admit non-Jews to the Jewish people? An expanded cartel is still a cartel.

Most of us in Israel do not belong to any specific religious current of Judaism. We are, as the unenviable expression goes, "secular," which means that while we may respect or admire some rabbis and think little enough of others, rabbis as such do not constitute authorities for us. Why should rabbis of any kind be the ones to decide for us who a Jew is?

After all, if secular Zionism was an attempt to solve a whole complex of Jewish problems, one of these was the problem of Jewish identity in an age in which fewer and fewer Jews held, or defined their Jewishness by, traditional religious beliefs.

When secular Zionism once spoke of "normalizing" Jewish life,

it meant that, once a Jewish state existed, a Jew would be quite simply someone who lived in it, spoke its language and considered it his homeland, just as a Spaniard is someone who speaks Spanish and lives in Spain, regardless of whether he attends Sunday mass or not. Such a concept involved a revolutionary redefinition of Jewishness, which was henceforth to be put on a national and territorial rather than on a religious basis.

Today, living in what is still far from a normal country, it may seem that the idea of "normalizing" Jewish life was a chimera to begin with. Indeed, not only have the words "Jew" and "Israeli" failed to become synonymous, they are becoming less congruent all the time. A thoroughly assimilated child of Jewish parents in Paris or Los Angeles who feels not the remotest connection to other Jews is a Jew; a child of non-Jewish immigrants to Israel who have cast in their lot with the Jewish people is not.

After 100 years of Zionism, we continue to define ourselves as a people in pre-Zionist terms. Orthodox and non-Orthodox rabbis can quarrel among themselves about the criteria for a religious conversion, but such a conversion remains the only way to make a Jew out of a Gentile.

We know that there is something both anachronistic and illogical about this. We know that the halachically non-Jewish child who grows up in Israeli society is a liv-

ing part of the Jewish people, just as we know that the purely nominal Jew in Paris or Los Angeles is not. We just don't know the terms in which to state or live out such realities.

Nor does there seem to be any better way of officially making new Jews. New Americans are made by becoming U.S. citizens, but equating Israeli citizenship with Jewishness is clearly an impossibility, if only because every fifth Israeli is an Arab.

The fact of the matter is that we are in a kind of double bind, the outcome of which, no matter what we do about it, will almost certainly be an even deeper split between the concepts of "Israeli" and "Jew."

Should secular Israeli society come up with some non-religious procedure for accepting new Jews into its midst, it itself would lose its Jewish status in the eyes of its large Orthodox minority; should this not happen, we will be living in a country with an increasing number of Hebrew-speaking, non-Jewish, yet also non-Arab Israelis.

Including Conservative and Reform rabbis in the monopoly of making Jews may help those individuals who wish to convert and lack the patience or eligibility to do so in an Orthodox manner. It will not, however, alleviate the larger problem — which is that of an ancient people stuck halfway in an unfinished revolution that it is unlikely to complete and quite literally no longer knowing who it is. It may take us generations or more to find out, and meanwhile, the question of who is a Jew will get messier regardless of who converts whom.

Dry Bones



Visions of the 'Anointed'

AMOS Oz has long been a darling of the left wing of the International Congregation of the Anointed.

By "the Anointed" I mean those who have a vision, one of the elements of which is the view that, in the words of Thomas Sowell, "Opposition to [this vision]... is due not to a different reading of complex and inconclusive evidence, but exists because opponents are lacking either intellectually, or morally, or both." *The Vision of the Anointed: Self-Congratulation as a Basis for Social Policy* (New York, Basic Books, 1995).

In the case of Israel, the Congregation of the Anointed would include those who believe they have the key to the creation of the New Middle East Speedily in Our Time as well as those who believe they know exactly how to force the arrival of Messiah Now. The two are, of course, equal threats to Israel's security and to peace.

Judging by Oz's frequent appearances in foreign forums of every sort, he, like some other spokespersons of the self-anointed "Peace Camp," seems possessed by a sense of a mission to use every possible medium to be a globe-trotting prophet proclaiming to the world the moral and intellectual failings of his countrymen who disagree with him.

On October 26, Oz treated the readers of *The Times* of London to a diatribe against our Orthodox community, our right wing, and the Jews of Judea, Samaria and the Gaza District under the headline: "So who did kill Yitzhak Rabin?" He did so in a heavy-with-irony rejection of the allegation that any of them murdered Rabin, on the grounds that "These are a very devout group of people," in the tone of Mark Antony's "Brutus is an honorable man" (Shakespeare's *Julius Caesar* III.ii).

While leveling a number of valid grave charges against certain Orthodox and right-wing elements, Oz also indicts by innuendo all the Orthodox and rightists, who comprise more than half of Israel's Jewish electorate (as reflected in last May's prime-ministerial election).

I will not deal with his immoderacies but take issue with his bandying of the label "Greater

A VIEW FROM NOV

MOSHE KOHN

Israel idea."

The use of the term "greater" in this context implies imperialistic expansionism for its own sake; seeking possession of territories to which we have no legitimate legal or historical claim. This surely does not apply to the Jewish people's claim to historical Eretz Yisrael, a claim that since 1967 has been expressed through the "Eretz Yisrael Hashlema" (Whole Land of Israel) idea and movement.

This idea draws its validity from both the land's Jewish history and the relevant international law: a number of international jurists, Jews and others, have pointed out that Israel is the only legal claimant to the areas of Mandatory Western Palestine that Jordan illegally annexed after the 1948 war and then lost in the war it launched against Israel in 1967.

Only a tiny, fringe sector of those at whom Oz aimed his insinuations seek an imperialistic "Greater Israel" for its own sake or even in order to take possession of the "Nile-to-Euphrates" borders. A majority of Israeli Jews are willing, with certain provisions, to make territorial compromise with our Arab neighbors.

That majority would be even greater if those neighbors displayed more good-neighboredness, and if Oz and his comrades in the self-anointed Peace Camp displayed some sincere regret over the prospective relinquishment of precious segments of our ancestral homeland.

As a matter of fact, the only expansionist "Greater" ideas in our region are the "Greater Syria" idea of leading Syrians who still look forward to the "return" of "Southern Syria/Palestine" — including Transjordan (today's Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan) — to Syrian hegemony, and Yasser Arafat's "Jihad for Palestine" idea.

(Thanks to Drs. Joseph and Aaron Lerner, associate directors of the Jerusalem-based IMRA/Independent Media review and Analysis

for the text of Oz's article.)

SHIMON PERES, now leader of the opposition, also remains a darling of and frequent performer for the foreign news media.

Since his Night Journey in which a *djinn* revealed the New Middle East to him, Peres finds history "a bore" (interview with Simon Sebag Montefiore in *The Spectator*, September 21), and he has several times declared that "There is nothing one can learn from history" (*Ma'ariv*, May 23).

Accordingly, he was able to tell BBC's *Six O'Clock News* program on September 27: "There is an Arab city which is called Hebron... There are no holy places there..."

In *Shema Biladaini One Year Without Him*, a special *Ma'ariv* supplement on the first anniversary of Rabin's murder, Peres vividly displayed his contempt for history, telling interviewer Ram Avitzur: "The nearly four years that [Rabin] was at the helm were the four best years in the 4,000 years of Jewish history."

He also displayed his disdain for current facts, saying Rabin had been "an object of the nation's trust," an estimation belied by the opinion surveys of the period before the assassination. About his election loss, Peres told Sebag Montefiore: "I was heartbroken... Israel was climbing a mountain. Now someone has just cut the rope..." We may have been climbing something closer to a cliff, and we pray that now someone has supplied us with a good climber's pick and family spiked boots.

An ardent supporter of "the peace process" and of Rabin and Peres, Marlene Marks Adler, managing editor of the *Los Angeles Jewish Journal*, wrote: "So fixated is Peres with what he called the 'moral choice' of creating partners out of enemies that he forgot to make partners out of his own people" (issue of October 11-17).

The same applies to Rabin, and this was probably the ultimate cause of his murder. (Thanks to Jack Davis of *Answers for the clipping of the Spectator* interview and to Dr. M.J. Cohen of London for the verbatim transcript of the BBC interview.)

To dream of livestock and stockmarkets

"And he dreamed, and behold! A ladder set up on the earth, and the top of it reached to heaven. And behold, the angels of God ascending and descending on it. And behold, the Lord stood above it, and said: 'I am the Lord God of Abraham your father, and the God of Isaac. The land on which you lie, to you will I give it, and to your seed.'" (Gen. 28:12-13)

THERE are very few things in life as significant as dreams. The Bible understands this and therefore records many dreams of the founders of our faith. The Talmud understands this, and therefore devotes almost an entire chapter — the ninth chapter of *Brachot* (blessings) — to a discussion of the significance of dreams and methods of their interpretation. Shakespeare understood this, and made dream declares: "We are the stuff that dreams are made of." Perhaps he should have said: "Dreams are the stuff that we are made of." Freud understood this, and made dream interpretation the foundation of modern psychoanalysis.

But how many of us are given the privilege of realizing our dreams? How many times do we dream great dreams only to have them result in bitter disappointment? When the gap between dream and reality is too great, depression and frustration result.

Let us analyze the dreams of this week's Torah reading, *Vayetzze*, the week's Torah reading, *Vayetzze*, the dreams of Jacob. We will see what

SHABBAT SHALOM

SHLOMO RISKIN

happens when great dreams are dashed against the rocks of despair. Jacob begins his exodus from his father's home with the loftiest dream possible. He falls asleep on the slopes of Beth El and dreams of a ladder connecting to heaven and angels ascending and descending. Indeed, he dreams of Israel's destiny: The unification of heaven and earth. If Judaism and Torah have any message at all, it is the possibility of joining the Divine and human, the spiritual and the material.

This was the goal of the birthright which he so zealously sought. And he sets out to the great world beyond his father's house in the hope of perfecting that world in the Kingship of the Almighty, bringing God's rule to every place on earth.

But Jacob falls on hard times. He encounters his uncle Laban, who not only teaches him the business of sheep-herding and flock-gathering, but also teaches trickery. Jacob lives with Laban for more than two decades. At first he must use deception in order to hold his own with his devious employer; in time, however, the bright nephew out-tricks his clever uncle and becomes a wealthy man in his own right.

Our Sages testify to the fact that he has not forgotten his early traditions, despite his distance from his parents' home: "With Laban have I dwelt," and the 613 commandments

have I kept" (the Hebrew word *gavri* has the same letters as *taryag*, 613). But he has forgotten his youthful aspiration. After 22 years with Laban, he dreams another dream: "And I saw in a dream and behold rams coming upon the sheep speckled, spotted and striped" (Gen. 31:10). Jacob dreams of livestock; Jacob dreams of the stock market; Jacob dreams of material success without spiritual component. Gone from his subconscious — and certainly from his conscious — is the unity of heaven and earth. Jacob has become totally absorbed in making his fortune.

And so his dream continues with the charge of the Divine messenger: "I have seen everything that Laban is doing to you; I am the God of Beth-el. Now rise, leave this land and return to the land of your birthplace" (Gen. 31:13).

Leave this land of Laban; leave this land of livestock and stock markets. Return to the dream of your fathers. But two decades in the prime of one's life is a very significant period. Jacob must have been devastated when he realized what he had become. He knows he must leave Laban before it is too late — but perhaps it was already too late.

Remarkably, however, the more than two decades with Laban were not only spent in successful business ventures. The entire portion of *Vayetzze* deals with Jacob's wives

and children, his loves and disappointments, the development of his family. When he leaves Laban's home, he has yet a third dream: "And Jacob went on his way and he was met there by angels of God... and he called the name of that place Maharasim (encampments, resting places, homesteads)" (Gen. 32:3).

The portion concludes almost the way it began. Jacob again meets angels of God, but this time they are not ascending and descending, they are visiting. Jacob realizes that his homestead is an encampment of God, a sacred place. Perhaps this final dream tells us that when one develops a family dedicated to God and Torah, this is the best way of uniting heaven and earth.

Jacob's children learn from their father's failures as well as from his successes. They cannot help but be impressed that he has the strength and courage to leave Laban's wealth and to return to Israel. They cannot help but be inspired by their father's attempt to recapture his dream. And ultimately Jacob's greatest success is in the perfection of his children.

The rabbis of the Midrash put it very succinctly. They call Jacob the most chosen of the Patriarchs: "Abraham was compared to a mountain — the mountain he climbed for the binding of Isaac. Isaac was compared to a field — the fields of Israel in which he planted and developed. But Jacob was the most chosen of all, for he was compared to a household — the household of Israel." *Shabbat Shalom*

Don't forget about the children

CONTRIBUTIONS to the Toy Fund are just not coming in as we anticipated and the days remaining to Hanukkah (December 5) are slipping by. It's difficult for an adult to remember just how important even the smallest gift can be to a child, especially when it may be the only gift he or she will receive. We want to make sure that no youngster who is in foster care or an institution will feel left out during Hanukkah. These children are counting on you to make their holiday a happy one. Please don't disappoint them.

Winter has crept upon us slowly this year, but there is no doubt that it has arrived. There are many elderly all over the country whose homes are inadequately heated and for whom winter is the most miserable time of the year. The main thrust of the Forsake Me Not Fund during cold winter months is to provide funds for heaters, blankets and warm clothing. How much we provide depends on you.

The Welcome Home Fund is concentrating all its efforts on raising funds in order to provide scholarships for educational or technical training to new immigrants and Israelis just completing army service. Unfortunately, donations are barely trickling in, which means that we will be limited as to the number of applicants we can help.

All three funds are counting on your support. Send your checks to: The Jerusalem Post Funds, POB 81, Jerusalem 91000. Donors in the United States wishing to receive tax benefits can send their donations to: Friends of The Jerusalem Post Funds, 211 E. 43rd Street, New York, NY 10017. Please designate in your letter to which fund you wish to donate.

FORSAKE ME NOT

- NIS 1,200 In loving memory of our parents, Josef Kashtan and Ida Rebecca Kashtan Kanoftsky, long gone but never forgotten.
- NIS 1,000 Jakob and Miriam Geisler, Tel Aviv, Shoshana and Paul Fenster, Petah Tikva.
- NIS 750 In memory of Lilian Mendoza — Eric Mendoza, J'm.
- NIS 400 Ruth and Jonathan Shapiro, Pines Hama.
- NIS 275 Yehudit and Bernard Gobits, J'm.
- NIS 200 In memory of Monty Nudelman — The Herberts of Haifa and Safed. In memory of my daughter, Judith Margaret Cohen — J. Lipson, Haifa, Esther Lipshitz, Haifa.
- NIS 180 In memory of my beloved father, Jerome B. Jerome — Jane Kimchi, J'm.
- NIS 130 In everlasting memory of our mother and grandmother, Sabiha Shimon Amajili.
- NIS 100 L. and D., Haifa. In memory of my most beloved husband, Harry, who died November 23, 1994. Dear father of Anthony and Janet and a dear grandfather — Edy Sander, Yael and Van Feigen, J'm.
- NIS 100 In loving memory of my dear mother, Kitty Cohn — Dina, J'm.
- NIS 100 In loving memory of Michael Bar-On — The Baron Family, Rehovot. In memory of our dearest mother — R.R., Haifa.
- NIS 90 In loving memory of Chaim and Shmuel Gorr (G'f) on their 44th and 48th yahrzeit, Haya-Sarah and Reeva Gorr Gorr, J'm.
- NIS 50 In memory of Liora Gamliel,

FUNDS

BEVERLEE BLACK

- beloved daughter of Chaya Baum — Rita and Fritz Robinson.
- NIS 48 In honor of Helen and Arnold Sallam's 45th Anniversary on November 14 — Love, Abe, Adina and Kids.
- NIS 40 In gratitude to Rabbi Mallis of Liverpool, England — The Cohen Family, Ma'alot Adumin.
- NIS 30 Anon.
- NIS 18 In loving memory of Bertha Herzog — Hannah Shein, Netanya.
- \$200 Anon. In memory of Ansel Garfin, Toronto — Anon.
- \$150 Ita Lew Postman, NYC.
- \$140 Anon.
- \$100 Sylvia and Marc Poterantz, Pittsburgh.
- \$118 In honor of Isidore Kushner — Helen K., Monsey, NY.
- \$50 Cary Schmitzer, Scottsdale, AZ. In gratitude to Ben-Zion Alexander Rabinowitz — R.R. and Conder, Eleanor Kanter, Portsmouth, VA.
- \$50 Sarah and Morris Genslaw, Brooklyn, NY.
- \$30 Roy Asper, Winnipeg, Canada.
- \$25 Helen and EW Woodham, Newport, AR. Shirley and Max Richter, Putnam Valley, NY.
- \$20 Mirja Kavama, Helsinki, Finland.
- \$18 Bernard Gevitzman, NYC.
- \$13 Charles Goldfarb, Ventnor City, NJ.
- \$10 Sharon Horowitz, Silver Spring, MD. Sarah Neider, Fayetteville, NC.
- \$w.Kr.100 Birger and Anneliese Schapiro, Stockholm, Sweden.

New Donations	NIS 6,360	Progress Totals	NIS 313,047
	\$1,181		\$41,520
(other currencies converted into shekels)			

TOY FUND

- NIS 275 Yehudit and Bernard Gobits, J'm.
- NIS 200 Bridge Circle, Migdal Nofim, J'm.
- NIS 150 Sebastian Adjinom, J'm.
- NIS 120 Anon., J'm.
- NIS 54 Anon., J'm.
- NIS 40 Anon.
- NIS 36 In honor of my grandchildren, Eynat, Noa and Guy — Natalia Wechsler, Tel Aviv.
- NIS 18 On the occasion of my fourth birthday — Guy, Ra'anna.
- NIS 16.40 Joshua Israel Geller, who also donated some of his toys.

WELCOME HOME FUND

- NIS 120 Anon., J'm.
- NIS 30 Anon.
- \$700 Anon.
- \$300 In loving memory of Marks, Flora and Shlita Niman of Glasgow, Scotland.
- \$150 Ita Lew Postman, NYC.
- \$50 Eleanor Kanter, Portsmouth, VA. In memory of my mother, NYC. Cary Schmitzer, Scottsdale, AZ.
- \$36 Sarah and Morris Genslaw, Brooklyn, NY.
- \$30 Roy Asper, Winnipeg, Canada.
- \$12 Charles Goldfarb, Ventnor City, NJ.
- \$10 Mirja Kavama, Helsinki, Finland.
- \$w.Kr.100 Birger and Anneliese Schapiro, Stockholm, Sweden.

New Donations	NIS 199	Progress Totals	NIS 133,984
	\$1,388		\$33,930

State of Israel Ministry of Immigrant Absorption Spokesman's Office

The Employment Department of the Absorption Ministry operates and funds evening courses for new immigrants. These courses are intended for working immigrants who have been in Israel for no more than five years. The purpose of the courses is to facilitate the professional advancement of the immigrants.

Course Subjects: Introduction to computers, word-processing, programming languages, autocad (computerized architecture and design), computerized graphics, professional Hebrew terminology, English and professional English, computerized office management, computerized inventory, computerized bookkeeping, salary computations, machine maintenance, and more...

Courses are held during the evening (and/or Fridays) throughout the country. Each course - 100 hours. For details and registration: Contact the Employment Coordinators in the office of the Absorption Ministry in your area.

Teenybopper power

TODAY'S teenyboppers are tomorrow's voters, and if Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi runs for prime minister in 2004, some of the young cheerleaders who rushed to pose with him at Supersol's American Food Festival reception at the Tel Aviv Hilton will definitely vote for him. Although Bill Clinton look-alike Bill Kay from Manchester, England, captured the attention of photographers, the teenagers in their red, white and blue costumes made an instant headline for Hanegbi.

THE QUOTE of the evening at the Supersol bash came from Edgar D. Faltos, US Embassy commercial counselor. As an American diplomat, he said, it gave him great pleasure and happiness "to be able to eat for my country." Clinton-Kay came a close second with "My wife is a great first lady, but she's no Sara Lee."

ABANDONED HUSBANDS sometimes fare better than abandoned wives. Popular Hassidic folk singer Itzhak Miller, unable to locate his wife in order to initiate divorce proceedings, yet wanting to have a home and a family, obtained the signatures of 100 rabbis for permission to remarry. Last month, he took a new bride. If it were only that easy when the shoe is on the other foot.

"IT'S MORE important for Jewish youth to know Jewish tradition than to know Shakespeare." So says Transport Minister Yitzhak Levy, who was one of the panelists at a memorial seminar for former Labor minister Moshe Baran on the 10th anniversary of his passing. To emphasize his point, Levy recounted his embarrassment when traveling abroad with a fellow MK who

GRAPEVINE GREER FAY CASHMAN

knew neither the blessings nor the procedure when the local congregation wanted to honor him with a Torah call-up on the Sabbath. On the other hand, he might not have been able to recite any Shakespearean soliloquies either.

ENTERTAINER and Jerusalem city councilman Yehoram Gaon has his own current-affairs program on Radio 2. And when he wants to know about what's happening in the world of business, he employs a little nepotism by calling on big brother Benny, who happens to be the CEO at Koor. The brothers Gaon are a great act, because Yehoram can ask Benny questions in a manner that no economics correspondent would dare.

Last Friday, he had him explain in layman's terms the significance of the consumer price index and the difference between the Jerusalem and Cairo business conferences. Benny Gaon, for his part, took the opportunity to point out that the peace process fares better in the hands of the business community than in those of politicians.

IT'S RARE for one major organization to accord recognition to a member of another but Marlene Post, national president of Hadassah, came within all the categories of special awards conferred by the Women's Division of Israel Bonds to 11 women who had given sterling service to their communities, the State of Israel and to Israel Bonds. The awards were presented in Jerusalem.

LUNCHEONS ARE amongst the most popular fund-raisers, but some

guests invariably complain about the caloric intake. The solution of the Friends of the Hebrew University, was to get Diet-Lee to cater their special slimming menu for the luncheon at the home of Pamela Lovell. Though Diet-Lee specializes in low-calorie, high-nutrition gourmet home deliveries, the meal on this occasion was not quite in line with slimmers' needs, because most guests piled their plates with just about everything on the buffet. Shlomit Samish, head of the HU's Faculty of Agriculture nutrition department in Rehovot, asked guests to close their eyes and concentrate on childhood memories of food. Few people remembered what they liked most, but pet hates included chicken soup, liver, klops and the white of a soft-boiled egg.

FINANCE Minister Dan Meridor is a man who obviously favors cooperation. During his appearance on Menashe Raz's Channel 1 *Saturday Game*, where he called for a national unity government in the best interests of the population, Meridor was shown archive footage of the days when, as a young cabinet secretary, he appealed for similar reasons to the people of Yamit to cooperate with the army. Meridor smiled and reminded Raz that he wasn't the only one minister-to-be in the eye of the camera. Tzahi Hanegbi, who was one of the leaders in the resistance to the dismantling of Yamit, had also been captured for posterity.

AFTER A long hiatus, perfumer Judith Muller has come out with a new fragrance in honor of Jerusalem 3000. It is her best and most expensive creation to date — though the \$1,000 price tag on the bottle covers more than the perfume itself. Muller was commissioned by Israel



Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert (left) and Benny Gaon share a laugh at the Jerusalem Business Conference. (Roni Neuman)

Government Coins and Medals Corporation chairman Uzi Narkiss, a native son of Jerusalem who was looking for something really special to enhance its beauty both on its third millennium and on the upcoming 30th anniversary of its reunification in which he played a major role as commanding general of the troops who liberated the city in the Six Day War.

Mounted on a pedestal decorated with a map of ancient Israel, the hand-painted Judith Muller bottle — has the Jerusalem 3000 gold medal embedded in its surface. Muller's bottles have become collectors' items sold in auction houses. Orders for the new fragrance are already coming in.

BOUND TO cause a little controversy next week is eminent historian Patricia von Papen of New York. The granddaughter of Hitler's deputy in his first govern-

ment, von Papen, who is coming to Jerusalem to participate in a seminar on German Antisemitism Reconsidered, will talk about scientific antisemitism in the Third Reich.

A PRE-EXHIBITION reception hosted at their Ramat Gan home by British ambassador David Manning and his wife Catherine enabled guests to gain some perception of the style of artist Lucian Freud before they trotted off to his exhibition at the Tel Aviv Museum.

A videotaped interview of the artist with his works ran nonstop for the benefit of those who preferred to watch rather than mingle. But eventually, everyone mingled, including first-time visitors Roma and Melvyn Brooks of Karkur (who were promoting their pet Cinderella project Neveh Menashe, a government-operated home for the mentally handicapped for which they were the first private donors), actor Yossi Graber, lawyer Danny Jacobson, art critic Angela Levine and her husband Elliott, British Council director Harley Brooks and his wife Didi, Professor Zev Segal of Tel Aviv University, Aminta Harris, chairperson of the Friends of the Camera Theater, and several other fascinating conversationalists.

THE MERETZ-LABOR alliance cannot be taken for granted. In a Mam Auditorium backstage disclosure, Meretz leader MK Yossi Sarid declared that Meretz will support Tel Aviv's present incumbent, Roni Milo, in the next mayoral elections, regardless of the identity of the candidate fielded by Labor. Out front, popular singer Shalom Artzi put on a benefit show for the Foundation for Children at Risk. It raised NIS 330,000, which will cover the operational costs of three kindergartens for autistic children for two-and-a-half months.

Clumsy footprints and strong arms

THAT WAS THE WEEK THAT WAS
MICHAL YUDELMAN

IT was one of those irresistibly juicy tidbits given to journalists by "sources" who cannot be named, so everyone concerned is liable to deny the story if its publication raises a storm.

Such information is a tough call for the journalist — is it true, is it driven by someone's agenda, is it plain disinformation? *Yediot Aharonot's* Shimon Schiffer found out that Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu and his advisers had discussed an intelligence snippet that suggested Labor leader Shimon Peres advised Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat "not to be in a hurry" about signing a Hebron agreement.

"It's a canard," declared Netanyahu, when the irresistible scoop hit the news stands the next day. He flatly denied he had received any such information. Canard or not, Netanyahu rushed to telephone Peres as soon as he learned that Schiffer was checking the story before press time. He traced Peres in Stockholm and assured him he didn't believe any of the nasty things being said about him back home.

As far as is known, the conversation may be reconstructed thus: "What things?" asked the amazed Peres. "Oh, you know. That it is you who are telling Arafat not to sign the agreement to evacuate Hebron. That kind of thing. But don't worry. It's gossip and I don't believe a word of it."

"Who, me?" It's easy to imagine Peres spluttering with incredulity. "But I was the one who urged Arafat to get on with it. I'm the last one on earth who would want to delay the evacuation."

"Of course you are. I know that. And that's exactly what I'll tell the journalist. That I don't believe a word of it. And by the way, now that we're on the phone, I just thought I'd like to remind you that I'm the prime minister now and I'm running things, not you or the opposition." The prime minister hung up the receiver and patted himself on the back. "Was I not gallant?" he asked his smirking advisers. "Wasn't I noble?"

But Labor leaders, unappreciative ingrates that they are, saw Bibi's action in a different light. They quickly accused him, and more specifically the staff in his bureau, of trying systematically to besmirch Peres and delegitimize him, repeatedly pinning on him acts tantamount to treason. MK Dalia Itzik cited the recent affair of Maj.-Gen. Oren Shahor, who was blacklisted by the prime minister and his ministers for daring to meet openly with Peres. Shahor was "ambushed" by a journalist who again was believed to have been tipped off by the Prime Minister's Office. He was then hung out to dry, accused by Netanyahu's people of spilling state secrets about the talks with the Palestinians to an arch-enemy of the government, the former prime minister, no less.

The clumsy footprints all over the Peres-advising-Arafat story led inexorably back to the Prime Minister's Office, said Labor leaders. MK Moshe Shalal did some sleuthing of his own and fingered Netanyahu's political adviser Dore Gold as the likely source of what he called "a base libel against Peres."

DUCKS AND DECOYS

Others in Labor suspected that both the Shahor and Arafat canards were pushed out into the political duckpond as mere decoys to distract media and public attention from what is really going on. Or, more accurately, what is not going on.

Talks with the Palestinians were not only stuck but moving backwards. Netanyahu and his government seemed to have run out of ideas for pulling the backsliding Oslo wagon out of the quicksand. For weeks those "informed sources" and even government ministers have promised that the signing of the agreement was coming "within days," "very soon," "by tonight" or, in Foreign Minister David Levy's famously incorrect prediction, "within hours."

At the same time, the Palestinians were blamed for holding things up. When that started wearing thin and Arafat's assessment of the talks proved infinitely more reliable (and pessimistic) than the government's, new rabbits of diversion were pulled from the hat.

Er, let's wait until after the US elections, they said. Ah, there's the gloomy Cairo economic conference to be got through. Oops, terrorist alert paralyzes the nation. Now even that has fizzled out. Syria is being unresponsive to our leaders' own drum-beating. Tut tut, what to do?

Still there are always those interesting snippets to keep the masses



At the center of a storm, adviser to the PM, Dore Gold (Israel Sun)

amused. Like the one *Ha'aretz* columnist Akiva Eldar heard from American sources close to the negotiations last week. They told him they had never encountered such a *balagan* at diplomatic talks, loud and vulgar behavior, ignorance and negligence among some members of the Israeli negotiating team.

The sources said attorney Yitzhak Molcho didn't know the difference between commercial bargaining and diplomatic negotiations. And most of all, they said they were appalled by the pidgin English of the Israeli side.

STRONG ARM

What type of character is most suited to be a Tsomet MK? Well, on the past record, one might be nondescript, eccentric or paranoid. Or, better, all three.

Poor old Haim Dayan might have remained merely nondescript, dwelling in blissful obscurity for the rest of his parliamentary career, had not destiny issued its fateful call to prime-time fame.

Destiny arrived at his local police station in the guise of his wife and promptly filed a complaint charging him with assault and battery last weekend. Rahel Dayan then went on to Ahuva's Ha'emek Hospital where she was treated for scratches, bruises and abrasions to her ankle and shoulder. The medical report noted that she arrived limping with part of her hair missing.

As the media storm clouds gathered over the MK's head, Mrs. Dayan withdrew the complaint a day later and the two trooped off to face Channel 2's cameras for a somewhat unconvincing and theatrical "reconciliation."

Apparently they forgot to coordinate their stories, so enthralled viewers got somewhat different, incoherent versions when they were asked if there had been "any physical violence between them." Rahel nodded and said there had been "an outburst," but "I'd rather not comment on that if possible."

The round, kippa-wearing husband explained: "I'm aware that I'm very powerful. If I had to strike a woman with the strength of my arm, it would cause something." (Damage, perhaps?)

Enter also a mysterious neighbor who, Rahel said, "luckily was in the house at the time." According to Haim, the neighbor "tried to get in," but he of the strong arm stopped him.

At the end of the interview Dayan used the powerful arm to pull his somewhat reluctant spouse to him for a televised kiss before she drew away again. Dayan denied beating his wife.

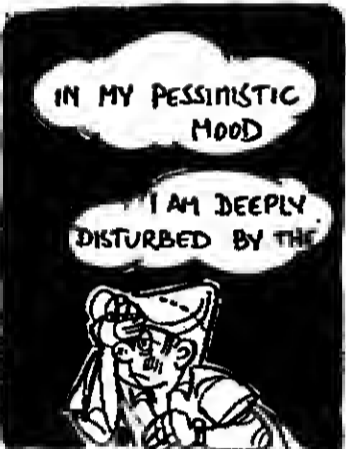
Rahel's mother Jacqueline Dadon accused him of "torturing my daughter for three months." She said the errant MK left home some three months ago saying he wanted a divorce. Now that he has come up in life, Rahel wasn't good enough for him, alleged the mother-in-law. She added that he had left his wife with no money for the four children and had tried to disconnect the domestic telephone.

On Saturday, she said, there was an outburst and he grabbed her by the hair. "If the neighbors hadn't intervened, she'd be dead already. She had marks on her neck and face and there was a tuft of hair he yanked out of her head."

Recently, Dayan had taken to the Knesset podium during a debate on domestic violence and said men who raise their arm against their womenfolk "should have their arms broken."

Dayan, who is also deputy Knesset Speaker, was due to conduct a Knesset debate this week to mark the International Day on Violence against Women. To the relief of every parliamentarian faced with the prospect of such squirming embarrassment, Dayan diplomatically opted instead to take a few vacation days "to rehabilitate my family life."

BRULIK



by DOSH

CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

- ACROSS**
- Earlier editions include remedies for lumbago (4,7)
 - Some sort of total—about 100—for US authors (6)
 - Eli turns around to produce an effect (6,2)
 - In a showing relatives around, found something very nasty (8)
 - Begins with jumps (6)
 - It's not a bright outlook, being in charge of a group of actors (8)
 - 23 Bad start to early letter I sent to sultanate (6)
 - 26 Girl who, but for the French, might have taken Civic Centre (5)
 - 27 Fish is about right for chap with redhead (6,5)
 - 28 Poetic animal takes very odd poetry, but in the style to be expected (11)
- DOWN**
- Choice of headgear can cause a bitter argument (7)
 - Boxer causes scare! (5)
 - Names a person from Minnesota (9)
 - Grind which causes many to get sick (4)
 - Object to the inclusion of expensive quarter, but this increased affection (8)
 - 6 Hits with footwear! (5)
 - 7 Continue to make a fuss (5,2)
 - 8 There's a dreadfully poor rate for his job! (8)
 - 14 Husband in a jam (8)
 - 16 The very last place to find superlative talk (9)
 - 17 This usually produces a response (8)
 - 18 He's a cold fellow and won't last long (7)
 - 20 Ban round the edge, and fell over (7)
 - 23 Prices let down on a back street (5)
 - 24 Dress while still in bed (8,2)
 - 25 Spar geese into action partly by encouragement (4)

SOLUTIONS

Yesterday's Quick Solution:

ACROSS: 1 Faculty, 4 Martial, a Complet, 9 Style, 10 Latch, 11 Nemesis, 12 Isaac, 15 Yehuda, 17 Sarcas, 20 Lute, 23 Citadel, 24 Debut, 26 Oker, 27 Egotism, 28 Depaint, 29 Sarcas.

DOWN: 1 Faculty, 2 Ravit, 3 Dolphin, 4 Martini, 6 Rania, 8 Lydie, 7 Lute, 10 Ome, 14 Ogle, 16 Keshiva, 18 Toulous, 19 Oksman, 21 Albeit, 22 Crowd, 23 Baria, 25 Bunk.

QUICK CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- Sequences (5)
- Intimidator (5)
- Difficult (7)
- Break (5)
- Location (5)
- Makes fun of (7)
- Requirement (4)
- Hurry (5)
- Pumpkin (5)
- Ogle (4)
- Gather fruit (7)
- Edition (5)
- Group of nine musicians (5)
- Apparent (7)
- Capital of Jordan (5)
- Advantage (5)

DOWN

- Crest (5)
- Caustic (7)
- Higher (5)
- Wash (7)
- Clergy house (5)
- Digestion (5)
- Rant out (5)
- Rim (4)
- Wriggler (4)
- Word formed from initials (7)
- Beginnings (7)
- Burnish (5)
- Firmament (5)
- Cops (5)
- Additional (5)
- Root vegetable (5)

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BUSINESS & FINANCE

Friday, November 22, 1996

13

MKs protest A-G's muzzling of Turbovich in Avner debate

SUPERVISOR of Monopolies Yoram Turbovich told MKs he had been forbidden by Attorney-General Michael Ben-Yair to give them his professional opinion as to whether Avner, the compulsory insurance fund, constituted an illegal restraint of trade.

Turbovich spoke at a joint subcommittee of the Knesset Law and Finance committees, whose members protested loudly.

Law Committee chairman Shaul Yahalom (National Religious Party) promptly terminated the meeting in protest, saying Ben-Yair had exceeded his authority, as Turbovich's opinion contained information essential to the committee.

Acting Finance Committee chairman Michael Kleiner (Geshet) also said he was shocked by Turbovich's statement, but objected to the closure of the meeting because of the importance of fin-

EVELYN GORDON

ishing the bill under discussion.

In response, Ben-Yair's office said civil service regulations prevent all civil servants from giving a personal opinion if an official government position exists. The official position in this case is that all insurance companies must continue to be members of Avner.

The joint committee was discussing renewal of the law which authorizes Avner's existence. The renewal of this law, which expires at the end of the year, is largely a formality, since allowing it to lapse with no alternative in place would leave a gaping void in auto-insurance coverage. Avner currently handles all compulsory car insurance, which includes all claims for personal injury. However, Yahalom's proposal was that the

renewal be for one year only, during which time the government would have to come up with a serious proposal for opening compulsory car insurance to competition.

Yahalom argued if insurance companies could compete freely in the compulsory insurance sector, coverage might become cheaper and more efficient. Avner had an accumulated deficit of NIS 660 million as of June 30, though this is down from over NIS 1 billion two years earlier. Furthermore, he said, forcing all companies to work through Avner violates the Basic Law: Freedom of Occupation, and might also constitute illegal restraint of trade. It was on this latter point that he wanted Turbovich's opinion.

Kleiner, in contrast, strongly supported retaining Avner, which he termed "one of the most important social laws in Israel."

Japanese bank goes bust; 14th in 2 years

WAKAYAMA, Japan (Reuters) - Customers queued for up to two hours in this western Japanese town yesterday to withdraw their money from the country's latest collapsed bank.

In a scene that has become increasingly familiar, housewives, shopkeepers and students stood in long lines outside the headquarters of Hanwa Bank Ltd clutching bank books and discussing with each other what went wrong this time.

But there was nothing new to find in the story of 55-year-old Hanwa Bank's collapse. It simply became the 14th financial institution, including three banks, to go bust under a pile of bad loans in the past two years.

Like the other failed institutions, most of Hanwa's bad loans were made in Japan's so-called "bubble" years of inflated land and stock prices in the late 1980s.

Finance Ministry figures showed Hanwa suffocating under a heap of 190 billion yen (\$1.71b.) in problem loans; against its comparatively puny capital of 20.3b. yen at the end of September.

The ministry said it had suspended most business of Hanwa, a second-tier regional bank, because it was clear the company could not recover.

"This is Japan. I am sure everything will be all right. The depositor insurance system will guarantee our deposits. But I'd rather have my money back sooner, just in case," said a housewife in her 30s.

Some people joined the queues only to leave when they heard there was a two-hour wait and they could still withdraw their money today.

Armored cars transporting extra cash needed to cope with the depositors were rushed to the bank's 53 branches as it became apparent that even though there was no panic, customers wanted their money, and wanted it now.

At least one rival financial institution lost no time in taking advantage of Hanwa's misfortune. Its employees handed out brochures to people as they stood on the sidewalk waiting to get in.

Hanwa officials said nearly all of its 859 employees, including some who came back from holiday unbidden when they learned of the crisis, were helping out with the rush to withdraw savings.

The bank's new president, Zenji Watanabe, said that Hanwa's loans to the real estate sector were abnormally high, at about 30 percent of its lending, compared with only about 10 percent at other similar-sized banks.

Elbit to set up medical centers in India

ELBIT Medical Services and the Dr. Reddy's Group of India yesterday announced the formation of a joint venture, Elbit International Medical Center Ltd.

Dr. Reddy's is a manufacturer of bulk drugs and exports penicillin. Elbit Medical Services is a division of the Haifa-based Elbit holding company and operates about 30 medical centers around the world.

The new firm initially will focus

on setting up a chain of medical centers equipped with a range of diagnostic and therapeutic equipment.

The first center, which will cost \$6 million to set up, will open in the southern Indian city of Bangalore under the name Elbit Diagnostic.

The company intends to build a chain of similar labs and plans to invest \$80m. over a three-year period.

Jennifer Friedlin

Blue Square net up 41.3%

COMPANY RESULTS
Jerusalem Post Staff

BLUE Square-Israel Ltd. reported a 41.3 percent jump in third-quarter net income to NIS 27.7 million, compared to NIS 19.6m. in the corresponding period one year ago.

Revenues for the period were up 31% to NIS 1.06 billion, compared to NIS 813m. in the third quarter of 1995.

Blue Square, a NYSE-traded company, attributed the company's results to the opening of new outlets in its supermarkets, specialty and department store divisions.

"Our strong sales derive from growth in same store sales and the opening of several new stores," Yacov Gelbard, president and CEO of Blue Square, said in a statement.

During the quarter, Blue Square opened a new Bon-Mart discount apparel store, a new Hamashbir department store, a new Marks & Spencer store and the first Mothercare infant, maternity and children's goods store.

Blue Square, Israel's largest retailer, operates 119 Co-Op supermarkets and 30 specialty and department stores. Blue Square is the direct owner of 82 of its supermarkets. The balance of the company's operations is owned by Blue Square's wholly and partially owned subsidiaries, including The Blue Square Chain Investments & Properties Ltd., in which Blue Square owns a 67.8% interest.

UNION BANK OF ISRAEL Ltd. announced a 64% increase in third-quarter net profits, which totalled NIS 12m., compared to NIS 7.3m. in the corresponding period last year.

Net profits for the first nine months of the year were up 8.2% to NIS 37m., compared to NIS 34.2m. in the same period one year ago.

Net return on equity, on an annual basis, rose to 7.9% from 6.2% in the same period in 1995.

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Compedia signs distribution agreement with Asian companies: Compedia, a maker of educational software, signed distribution agreements with Synforest of Japan and Compedia Korea of South Korea. According to the terms of the agreement, the two companies will market Compedia's *Tamar* and *Gordy* product lines.

Edusoft signs NIS 400,000 distribution deal in Poland: Edusoft, a manufacturer of educational multimedia tools and a subsidiary of Degem Systems (TASE: DGEM), signed a NIS 400,000 distribution deal with the Warsaw-based company Optimus. Optimus, the largest computer and software manufacturer in Eastern Europe, will market Edusoft's line to home users.

Finjan introduces security software for big corporations: Finjan Software Ltd. of Herzliya introduced the first product available to corporations to protect their computer networks before potentially harmful or unauthorized downloadable, such as Java applets, can enter. Through SurfInGate, corporate security managers can determine which business groups or departments are granted which resources and at what times, and can set the software according to corporate security policy. For more information, see Finjan's website at www.finjan.com.

Geotek Communications and RWE Telliance announce agreement: Geotek Communications (Nasdaq: GOTK) and RWE of Germany have announced a definitive partnership agreement to merge their respective analog networks. Together, the networks will service more than 33,000 business users in 12 of the 14 major economic regions in Germany. The joint operation will provide integrated mobile voice and data communication services for fleet-based businesses.

Ha'aretz to sponsor seminar on Easdaq and LSE Exchanges: Speakers from Guinness Mahon & Co. Ltd. and Gouldens law offices, both based in the UK, will present a day-long seminar entitled "Raising Capital in the British Marketplace" at Gan Oranim on December 2 from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. The seminar will focus on the London Stock Exchange and on the newly formed Brussels-based Easdaq exchange.

IBM signs reciprocal purchase agreement to buy Israeli products: IBM signed a reciprocal purchase agreement with the Ministry of Industry and Trade. According to the agreement, IBM is committed for the next three years to buy Israeli products totalling the same amount as the company's sales to the Israeli government.

ISRAELI MONEY MARKETS

Patish (foreign currency deposit rates) (11.9.96)

Currency (deposit term)	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	12 MONTHS
U.S. dollar (\$250,000)	4.750	5.000	5.375
German mark (DM 200,000)	3.875	4.000	4.250
Swiss franc (SF 200,000)	1.825	1.825	2.125
Yen (10 million yen)	0.825	0.750	1.000

(Rates vary higher or lower than indicated according to deposit)

Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates* (21.11.96)

CURRENCY BASKET	CHECKS AND TRANSFERS		BANKNOTES		Res. Rate
	Buy	Sell	Buy	Sell	
U.S. dollar	3.894	3.897	3.18	3.32	3.6731
German mark	2.194	2.181	2.11	2.22	2.1681
French franc	5.428	5.513	5.33	5.59	5.4807
Japanese yen (100)	0.836	0.848	0.82	0.88	0.8402
Dutch guilder	2.881	2.851	2.83	2.88	2.8104
Swiss franc	1.879	1.848	1.88	1.98	1.8820
Swedish krona	2.544	2.586	2.50	2.63	2.5838
Norwegian krona	0.482	0.481	0.47	0.51	0.4819
Denish krone	0.510	0.518	0.50	0.53	0.5140
Finnish mark	0.580	0.589	0.58	0.58	0.5840
Canadian dollar	0.712	0.724	0.70	0.74	0.7182
Australian dollar	2.400	2.448	2.38	2.48	2.4378
S. African rand	2.894	2.851	2.85	2.88	2.8488
Belgian franc (10)	0.894	0.707	0.83	0.71	0.7058
Austrian schilling (10)	1.047	1.080	1.02	1.08	1.0513
Italian lira (1000)	3.057	3.101	3.00	3.15	3.0779
Jordanian dinar	2.180	2.180	2.11	2.23	2.1748
Egyptian pound	4.680	4.780	4.48	4.79	4.6388
ECU	0.820	1.000	0.82	1.00	0.8931
Irish punt	4.135	4.202	4.04	4.15	4.1652
Spanish peseta (100)	5.437	5.525	5.34	5.61	5.4880
	2.579	2.582	2.51	2.64	2.5615

*These rates vary according to bank. **Bank of Israel.
SOURCE: BANK LEUMI

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MUSARRA, UNIQUE, SMARTLY renovated old Arab basement apartment for studio office reference. ALEX LOSKY REAL ESTATE. 19 King David St. Tel. 02-623-3588.

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OLD KATAMON (ALRON), 3, spacious, sunny, elevator, parking, fabulous view, quiet design, 240 sq. m., parking through ANGLO SAXON. Tel. 02-625-1161.

OLD KATAMON QUIET area, stone house + heart, 3, renovated + sun and view. ZIMUK. Tel. 02-563-8221.

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QUIET REHAVIA, 6, luxurious, high standard, air conditioning, elevator, storage room. ANGLO SAXON (MALDAN). Tel. 02-625-1161.

RAMAT ESHKOL, 2.5 (84 sq. m.), view, elevator, sunny. \$185,000. ANGLO SAXON (MALDAN). Tel. 625-1161.

RAMAT ESHKOL, 4 rooms, large living room, 6th floor only \$205,000. AM-GAR. Tel. 02-581-8833.

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REHAVIA, ATTRACTIVE, 4, centrally located, separate entrance, off-road investment. CORRIINE DAVAR. Tel. 02-673-3365.

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TZAMERET HABIRA, 4, private entrance, like new. Incredibly view. Keys at ANGLO SAXON (MALDAN). Tel. 02-625-1161.

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HEBREW UNIVERSITY, Tours of the Mount Scopus campus in English, daily Sun-Thur. 11 a.m. from Brothman Reception Centre, Sherman Administration Bldg., Bldg. 49, 6, 23, 26, 26. For info, call 862819.

GENERAL JERUSALEM

ART GUIDE
THE REUBEN AND EDITH HECHT MUSEUM, (Hebrew University), Permanent exhibition: 'The People of Israel in Eretz Yisrael' - Photocollage on the Northern Coast of Israel in the British Period - Impressionism and Healing in Ancient Times - Impressionism and the Jewish School of Paris. Open Sun., Mon., Wed., Thur. 10-4; Tue. 10-7; Fri. 10-1. Sat. 10-2. ADMISSION FREE.

GENERAL ASSISTANCE
Friday, November 22
Jerusalem: Kupat Cholim, Strass A. 3 Avigdor, 670-6660; Balsam, Salah e-Din, 627-2315; Shualat, Shualat Road, 581-0108; Dar Aldawa, Herods Gate, 628-2068.
Tel Aviv: Pater Market, 61 Yehuda Hayyim, 628-2973; Pharmacy, 41 Yirmeyahu (next to Pater Cinema), 544-2050.
Ra'anana-Kfar Sava: Kineret, 119 Weizmann, Kfar Sava, 767-3228.
Netanya: Neot Shaked, Ezorim Commercial Center, 652484.
Haifa: Balfour, 1 Masada, 862-2289.
Kiryat area: Krayot, 1 Habagana, Krayat Blak, 872-1655.
Herziya: Clal Pharm, Beit Merzokim, 6 Masik (nr. Sdeot Hagalim), Herziya Pituh, 558472, 558407. Open 8 a.m. to midnight.
Upper Nazareth: Clal Pharm, Lev Ha'ir Mail, 570488. Open 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

HAIFA
AMIT WOMEN: See Israel's future. Visit our projects. Sun-Thurs. a.m. - Jerusalem 02-5619222 - Tel Aviv 03-5272526

JERUSALEM
MUSEUMS
OLD YERUSHALAY COURT MUSEUM, Life in the Jewish community in the Old City, mid-19th century - World War II. 6 Or Hanaim, Jewish Quarter, Old City. Sun.-Thur. 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

JERUSALEM
MUSEUMS
TEL AVIV MUSEUM OF ART, Following the Shock of the 1948-49 Arab Revolt, the Ministry of Education Prize in Plastic Arts. Particulars by a group of Israeli artists. Virtual Reality - the domestic and realistic in contemporary Israeli art. 'Face to Face'. The Museum Collections. HELEN RUBINSTEIN PAVILION FOR CONTEMPORARY ART. Shirana Ben-David and Arnon Ben-David New Works. Hours: 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Tue.-10 a.m.-10 p.m. Fri., 10:00 a.m.-2 p.m. Sat., 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Meyerhoff Art Education Center, Tel. 0916105-8.

TEL AVIV
Dan Region: 979333 Rehovot: 451338
Eilat: 633244 Rishon: 954333
Haifa: 812233 Safed: 920338
Jerusalem: 693133 Tel Aviv: 5490111
Karmiel: 983444 Tibetza: 760444

DUTY HOSPITALS
Friday, November 22
Jerusalem: Hadassah Ein Karem (internal, pediatrics, ophthalmology); Shearav Zedek (surgery); Hadassah Mt. Scopus (orthopedics); Bikur Holim (obstetrics, ENT).
Tel Aviv: Tel Aviv Medical Center Dana Pediat. Hospital (pediatrics); Tel Aviv Medical Center (internal, surgery).
Netanya: Laniado.
Saturday, November 23
Jerusalem: Hadassah Mt. Scopus (internal, orthopedics); Shearav Zedek (surgery); Hadassah Ein Karem (obstetrics, ophthalmology); Bikur Holim (pediatrics, ENT).
Tel Aviv: Tel Aviv Medical Center Dana Pediat. Hospital (pediatrics); Tel Aviv Medical Center (internal, surgery).
Netanya: Laniado.

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In emergencies dial 102. Otherwise, dial number of your local station as given in the front of the phone directory.

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Ashdod: 9561333 Kfar Sava: 990222
Ashkelon: 5251322 Netanya: 5912333
Beersheva: 627487 Hatzor: 904444
Beit Shמש: 6231333 Pt. Tzeva: 5311111

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Immanuel Church (Lutheran), Tel Aviv-Yaffo, 15 Beer Holim (nr. 17 Elat Street), Tel. 03-682654 Saturday service 11 a.m. Service in English every Sunday at 10 a.m.

COMMUNITY CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP, Non-denom. Sat., 10:00 to noon. Near ACE/Sheratim exit-Haifa Hwy, Café Kerson 09-865-8494, Luke 09-864-2913.

TEL AVIV-CHRISTIAN
BAPTIST VILLAGE CONGREGATION, 3 km. north of Petah Tikva, near Yarkon Junction, Sabbath Bible study Saturday 8:45 a.m. Worship hour, 10:45 a.m. Tel. 09-585245.

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To teach English for 6 hours a week at an academic institution. Please send details via fax 03-523-2208. Attention: Nora.

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Syria has arsenal of nerve gas, expert says

DAVID RUDGE

A LEADING Israeli expert on chemical and bacteriological warfare said yesterday that Syria has an arsenal of deadly nerve gases and, reportedly, anthrax, a lethal bacterium.

Dr. Danny Shoham, a senior researcher at Bar-Ilan University's Begin-Sadat Center for Strategic Studies, said the Syrians had the chemical agents installed in thousands of aerial bombs and between 100-200 warheads for Scud B and the more advanced Scud C ground-to-ground missiles.

He stressed, however, that Syria has built up its non-conventional arsenal primarily as a deterrent and to counter-balance Israel's reputed nuclear capability.

Shoham, a former senior army intelligence analyst, stated that in his opinion the prospect of Syria initiating a non-conventional strike against Israel is low.

He added, however, that such a possibility could not be ruled out

completely, especially if Syria's vital interests or the very existence of the regime were threatened or power passed into the hands of someone less rational than President Hafez Assad.

He spoke to *The Jerusalem Post* following comments made earlier this week by Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai, who said Syria's chemical warfare capability posed a serious threat.

"Syria is reckoned to be the most advanced Arab country in terms of its ability to materialize a chemical warfare threat," said Shoham.

"The main components of Syria's chemical arsenal are the nerve agents, 'Sarin' and more recently VX which is more virulent and can penetrate through the skin and not only the respiratory system, and also persists longer because of its less volatile nature," Shoham said the nerve agents

had been produced in Syria over more than a decade, initially with the possible assistance of the former Soviet Union, then private Western European concerns and more recently through suppliers in China, India, and North Korea.

Lately there have been reports that Russian scientists have once again been helping the Syrians to produce the nerve agents, particularly VX.

According to Shoham, the VX agent produced by the Syrians plausibly resembles the Soviet version of the deadly gas which is more toxic than that manufactured originally by the Americans.

"There are reports that the Syrians have also produced anthrax, a highly lethal bacterium, which together with their two chemical warfare options, make their non-conventional threat much more significant in terms of strategic capabilities."

Nasrallah: Hizbullah's patience is wearing thin

DAVID RUDGE

HIZBULLAH leader Sheikh Hassan Nasrallah said the group remains committed to upholding the Grapes of Wrath understandings, but condemned what he said were continued violations by Israel.

Nasrallah charged that IDF shelling of villages north of the security zone continues and that Israeli apologies are insufficient.

Prior to April's Operation Grapes of Wrath, Hizbullah retaliation for attacks on civilians took the form of Katyusha-rocket bombardments in the Galilee.

The understandings that ended Grapes of Wrath, however, banned attacks on civilians on both sides of the border, including villages north of the security zone.

Nasrallah's comments, reported in Lebanese newspapers yesterday, followed a meeting between the Hizbullah leader and France's ambassador to Lebanon Pierre Lafon.

"Increasing Israeli attacks on civilians call for more serious and stricter work by the monitoring group," Nasrallah was quoted as

having told the ambassador.

"Empty Israeli apologies don't protect the civilians. The Islamic Resistance (Hizbullah's fighting arm) has been very patient and has displayed great self-restraint," he said.

The meeting between Lafon and Nasrallah was the first between the two men. Lafon said it was part of his duties to meet with leaders of all Lebanese political parties.

France next month assumes chairmanship of the five-nation monitoring group that until now has been headed by the US.

Lebanese newspapers reported that a house in Jarjaj village in the Iqlim al-Toufah region north of the zone was set ablaze early Wednesday, allegedly as a result of IDF shelling.

The house's 15 occupants were all away at the time, but the newspapers charged the shelling was a flagrant breach of the Grapes of Wrath understandings.

There was no confirmation of the reports from any independent sources.

SHARON

(Continued from Page 1) in the future will be presented to us so that we can go through the formality of rubber stamping it." But, he stressed, "there will be utterly no significance to any rite of ratification by us after the fact. This can be of benefit only to the government's public relations, but will have no real meaning."

Sharon also said in his talk with the NRP members that, although he had presented his own "detailed plan for safeguarding the Jewish community in Hebron and for ensuring its future survival and development, no one

has even bothered to contact me about it, much less actually discuss my proposals or tell me whether they are acceptable, mildly interesting or unworthy of attention. Neither has the program come up for deliberation in the cabinet or inner cabinet."

The NRP political bureau yesterday adopted a resolution that the party's representatives will not vote for any agreement they are not allowed to see in advance. They also said their votes would depend on whether they are given sufficient time to study an agreement before it is initiated.

BUDGET

(Continued from Page 1) The 1997 Defense Ministry budget stands at NIS 30.45 billion, some of which will go to non-IDF activities.

The IDF still is considering an increase in its spending on war preparation and standing security, despite the cuts. The cuts, it says, will have to come in other areas.

One of the largest savings will come when Rafael - the Armaments Development Authority - becomes a government company. Currently a wing of the IDF, Rafael has accrued a deficit of more than NIS 1b, much of which is met with IDF funds. The IDF also is interested in transferring the Mezraha tank-parts production line into government control or the

private sector.

The Treasury has agreed that an additional budget cut of NIS 2b, likely to be added to the total NIS 4.9b currently being discussed in the Knesset, would not fall on the defense establishment, one officer said.

"The size of the IDF today is just enough to allow us to defend the country. However, I would feel far more relaxed if we had a larger stockpile of equipment," the officer said.

Officers listed a variety of measures, including slowing the promotion process, reducing the number of hours spent in training and scaling down the amount of food distributed at breakfast and in the evening.

SPECTER

(Continued from Page 1) observers said yesterday, particularly on the part of the US. But the Syrians would like US pressure to be brought to bear on Israel to start talks from the same point where the previous government left off - apparently an oral agreement to return to the 1967 borders.

For his part, Netanyahu told Specter that he was willing to renegotiate on the basis of UN resolutions 242 and 338 - but without pre-conditions.

At all events, both Netanyahu and the Syrians have pointed out that no movement on the Syrian track should be expected until the new government is set up in Washington in January.

State Department spokesman Glyn Davies said Specter was not acting on behalf of the administration when he suggested a Washington summit.

Davies said US officials might meet with Specter and get a briefing on the trip when he returns.

Meanwhile, Specter, in his report back to Netanyahu, with whom he conferred for the second time in 24 hours yesterday, tried to allay fears with regard to Syrian troop movements.

"On the subject of the tensions, President Assad said there was no hostile intent on the part of Syria and that the army maneuvers were purely routine," Specter told reporters later. He added Assad had assured him "that there was no sense of hostility with respect to Syrian intentions in any way, shape or form."

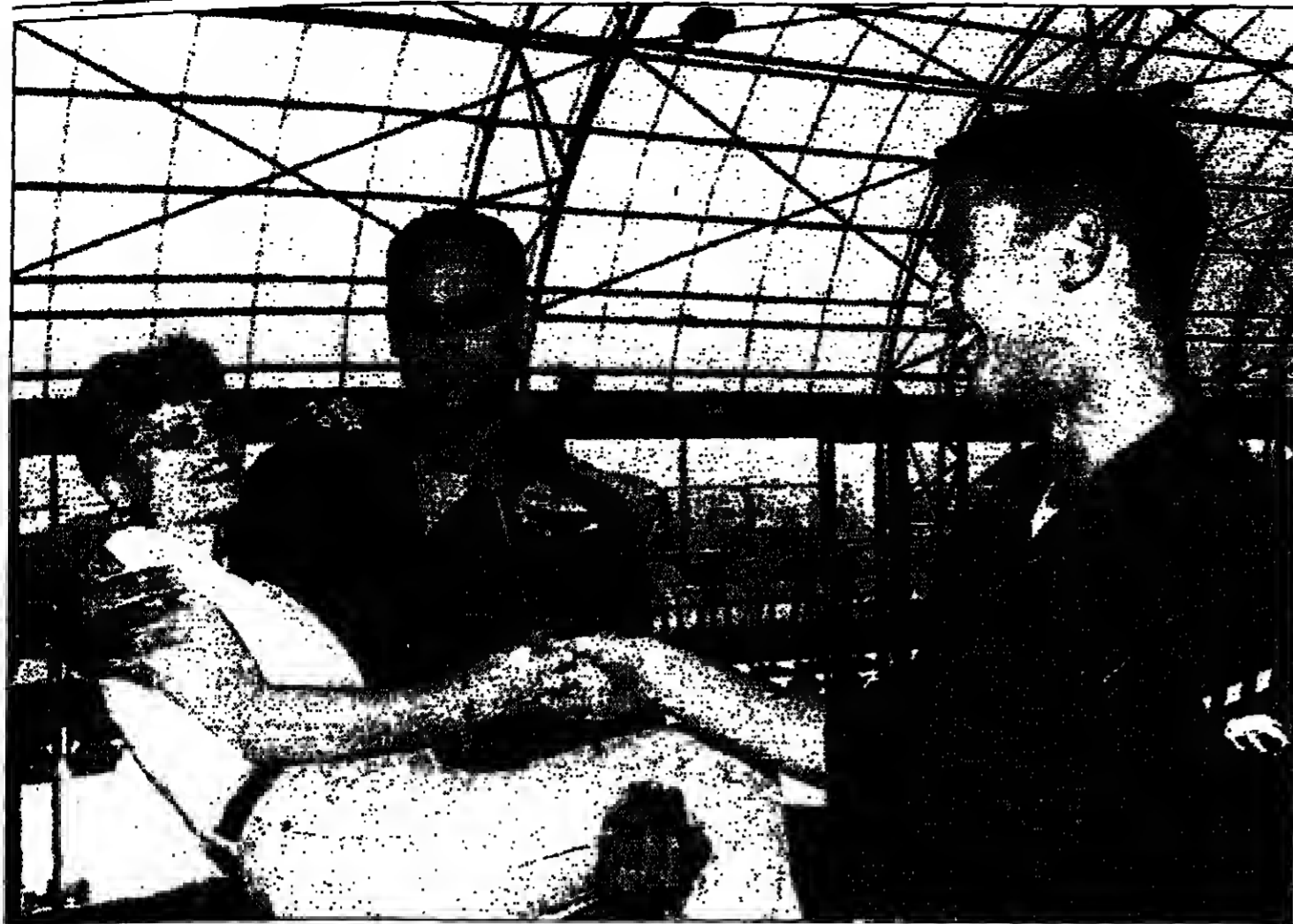
Observers said Specter's visit to Damascus was prominently reported in the Syrian media.

Meanwhile, a senior Syrian official yesterday pledged his country would use whatever means were at its disposal to liberate the Golan Heights, if the peace process collapsed - an implicit reference to the military option.

Tawfik Salha, a member of the national command of the ruling Ba'ath Party, made his remarks in an address to the eighth congress of the Syrian Communist Party.

"If the peace process fails, Syria will never agree to the continued occupation of its territory," said Salha. "It will work to liberate it in the manner that it deems appropriate, and it is ready to face any eventualities."

The editor of the tightly controlled ruling party daily, *Al-Ba'ath*, yesterday launched a vicious attack on Netanyahu and called on the international community to "shackle the hands of the criminal and neo-Nazi advocates of war, aggression and expansion before it is too late."



Some 300 Soldiers' Welfare Association volunteers from the South gather in Ashkelon yesterday for a conference. (Dana Stettin/Israel Sun)

NEWS IN BRIEF

Ministry warns against eating fish from Yeroham
The Health Ministry yesterday warned the public against purchasing and eating fish from the artificial lake in Yeroham. Inspectors found that large numbers of fish have died in the lake, apparently due to untreated sewage entering the water. Consuming fish living in such an environment can be dangerous to one's health, the ministry said. *Judy Siegel*

Judgeship candidates' names to be made public
The names of candidates for judgeships will now be publicized, to give the public an opportunity to comment before a choice is made, the committee on appointing judges decided yesterday.

The change is meant to protect the public's right to know and enable public supervision of the committee's work. Previous appointment committees had refused to publicize names, on the grounds that public discussion might impair the committee's independence and cause lawyers who are candidates to lose business. *Evelyn Gordon*

Search for Edri resumes

The Civil Guard renewed searches for missing soldier Sharon Edri yesterday morning at the request of the special investigation team looking into Edri's September disappearance. The searchers will check wells and caves and other hard-to-reach places that were

skipped over in previous searches. They will check the Beit Shemesh area for the next few days and then proceed to search around Beithleem, Hebron, Lod and other locations. *Ilim*

Police to question Dayan on Sunday

Police are scheduled to question Isomet MK Haim Dayan on Sunday morning regarding allegations that he assaulted his wife Rabel during an argument at their Migdal Ha'emek home on Saturday. Police and Dayan agreed that he would be questioned at the Ha'armakim District Police headquarters in Nazareth.

The inquiry is going ahead, in accordance with new regulations regarding cases of alleged domestic violence, even though Rabel Dayan withdrew her complaint. *David Rudge*

Haifa Histadrut workers call off strike

Employees of the Histadrut's Haifa and district branch decided yesterday to call off their strike, which had been called to protest the union leadership's demand to reduce the number of staff members. The workers, at a meeting in the afternoon, agreed to branch chairman Baruch Zaltz's compromise proposal to hold negotiations with the Histadrut's leadership over its demand to dismiss dozens of workers. The number of employees has been cut from 280 to around 150 in the past two years. *David Rudge*

ABEB-RABBO

(Continued from Page 1)

which lead to confrontation with the Palestinian people and the Palestinian Authority." He said in a pointed warning to the US that it could not sit passively as a facilitator while Israel expanded settlements opposed by the US, because the result "will be the destruction of all that has been achieved between the two sides."

The Prime Minister's Office issued a statement saying "This rhetoric does not advance anything. Threats are useless. The Palestinian Authority knows very well that a decision is needed from it to conclude the negotiations and the absence of such a decision by it is the cause of the delay."

"This is not the way to advance the negotiations. The Palestinians know that all that is needed to conclude the talks is a decision by the Palestinians to conclude them," a source in the office said.

Despite Abed-Rabbo's comments, negotiations continued last night. Negotiators Dan Shomron and Yitzhak Molcho met with Saeb Erekat, and Cabinet Secretary Danny Naveh and Netanyahu adviser Dore Gold were scheduled to meet with Abed-Rabbo.

High-level government sources have said several times in the past few weeks that a meeting between Netanyahu and Arafat is not feasible until the gaps over Hebron are closed to a greater extent.

Batsheva Tsur and Ilim contributed to this report.

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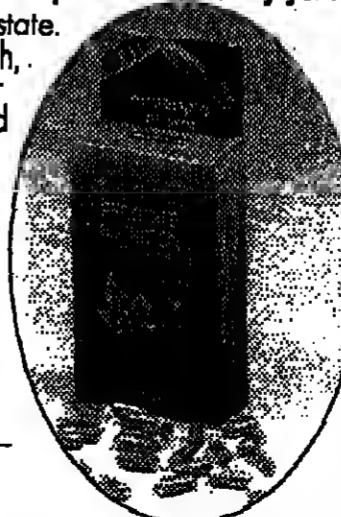
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Sheffer leads Mac. TA over Stefanel Milan

30-point performance helps team raise EuroLeague record to 4-4 in impressive road victory

WELCOME back, Doron. Playing his finest game since hanging up his University of Connecticut jersey last spring, Maccabi Tel Aviv guard Doron Sheffer scored 30 points and helped his club stave off a furious Stefanel Milan comeback as Maccabi registered an 88-84 road victory over Group A leaders Stefanel Milan.

Whether driving to the hoop, shooting from outside, or completely shutting down Milan's Anthony Bowie, Sheffer was outstanding, but he wasn't alone. His best showing was also the finest game coach Zvi Sherf's club has played this EuroLeague season, as Oded Katash (20) and Buck Johnson (18) also were outstanding in securing the win that kept the club's chances for a top three spot in Group A alive.

It was Maccabi's offense that proved the difference in the early going. With Oded Katash hitting one three-pointer and Sheffer another, Maccabi

grabbed an early lead and never looked back. Thanks to great defense, superb ball movement and consistent cuts to the basket by practically all the Maccabi players, the offense was as fluid as it's been all year. When Katash and Sheffer were bottled up, Johnson came through, stepping back for a jumper or scoring on a dunk over Warren Kidd, whom he completely outplayed.

But it was Sheffer who supplied the extra push whenever it looked like Maccabi wouldn't get over the bump. A three-pointer with just under five minutes to play gave Maccabi its biggest lead, 48-29, before the stunned Italians managed to regroup to cut it to 54-40 at halftime.

What looked easy in the first half wasn't so simple in the second. Stefanel, known for its iron-clad defense, completely shut down Maccabi in the initial part of the second half. Meanwhile, Ferdinando Gentile took Maccabi players to the hoop, scoring on a series of drives that suddenly

got the Italians back in it. While Gentile was scoring practically at will, Maccabi's once potent offense went cold. Twice Johnson got called for steps, and the once crisp passing and coming game disappeared. Randy White missed underneath or dribbled off his foot, and when Gentile hit a three-pointer, the Italians had reeled off a 18-6 spurt to close to two, 60-58.

But playing like in his NCAA glory days, Sheffer would not be denied. Relishing the leadership mantle, he showed what he was made of by stuffing Gentile, then scoring on a drive just when a basket was needed. However, the gallant Italians wouldn't fold their tents. Marco Samburgaro hit a three, and suddenly the once wide lead was down to a single point, 72-71, with 6:30 left.

Again Sheffer showed he has ice water in his veins. He coolly drained a three, then watched teammate Brad Leaf score on a clutch offensive rebound to extend the lead to 77-71, as Katash, in foul trouble, looked on from the sidelines. Constantin Popa filled in ably for the again out-of-it White, but the Italians had one more comeback in them.

Alessandro De Pol snuck inside to score, then hit a foul shot to make it 79-78, but Maccabi would not be denied this hard-earned victory. Swarming all over forward Gregor Fucica, they succeeded in tying him up and forced the Italians into a 30-second violation. Then it was time for that man again, Sheffer, to sneak inside for a lay-up to make it 81-78. Gentile cut it to one from the line before Katash found the perfect time to score his first points of the second half: a three-pointer that got both the Maccabi bench and even several dozen Habad hassidim who had come to the game

out of their seats. Nadav Henefeld, who learned a few tricks at UConn himself, scored an important hoop to stave off any further Stefanel comeback as Maccabi Tel Aviv continued its return from the EuroLeague ashes, which started in the second half of last week's game vs. CSKA.

The victory evened Maccabi's record at 4-4 and erased some of the bad feeling caused by the home defeat to Limoges two weeks ago. With two home games left, Sherf's club greatly improved its shot at third place in Group A, but more importantly, finally found the leader they were looking for in Doron Sheffer.

EUROLEAGUE RESULTS:
Sevilla 72, Kinder Bologna 64 (30-37)
Olympiakos 87, Charleroi 60 (50-29)
Stefanel Milano 85, Mac. TA 88 (40-54)
Limoges 78, Panionios 75 (40-40)
T. Bologna 100, Es. Madrid 68 (49-31)



CAN'T TOUCH THIS - Charlotte's Tyrone 'Mugsy' Bogues (1) drives past New York's Charlie Ward en route to the Hornets' win on Wednesday night in at the Charlotte Coliseum. (Reuters)

Seattle wins ninth straight, Chicago makes it 11-0

LANDOVER, Maryland (AP) - Gary Payton scored 31 points and the Seattle SuperSonics, after blowing a 16-point lead in the final six minutes of regulation, stretched their winning streak to nine games by beating Washington 115-110 in double overtime Wednesday night.

The Sonics survived a heroic effort by the Bulls' Chris Webber, who had 34 points and 13 rebounds in a career-high 56 minutes. Webber tied the game with a 3-pointer late in regulation and scored all 10 of Washington's points in the first overtime.

But the Bulls ran out of energy in the second overtime, going scoreless until Chris Whitney hit a 3-pointer with 1:05 left to cut into a 9-point deficit.

Shawn Kemp had 34 points and 12 rebounds and Detlef Schrempf finished with 23 points and 15 rebounds.

Bulls 113, Suns 99

Michael Jordan and Scottie Pippen scored 37 points apiece as visiting Chicago reeled off its 11th straight win.

Phoenix clinched its worst start ever. The Suns (0-10) went into the game tied with the 1985-86 team, which also started 0-9.

Pippen, whose scoring was a season-high and within six points of his career best, was 6-of-9 on 3-pointers. He made the last with 6:50 remaining to give the Bulls a 103-82 lead and guarantee the win.

NBA's last undefeated team.

Jordan was taken out with 7:16 to go after shooting 16-for-29. Pippen came out a minute later after going 15-for-23 with eight rebounds and seven assists.

Pistons 108, Celtics 83

Grant Hill scored 23 points and Lindsey Hunter added 22 as Detroit

ran its road record to 5-0 and its overall mark to 9-1 by beating Boston.

The Pistons put the game out of reach with a 14-2 run midway through the third period, extending a 67-52 lead to 81-54 on Kenny Smith's 3-pointer with 40 seconds left.

The Pistons made 39 of 76 shots from the field. Their defense, which has yet to allow an opponent to score 100 points this season, forced the Celtics into 22 turnovers resulting in 20 points.

Antoine Walker scored 18 points to lead the Celtics.

Pacers 103, 76ers 92

Reggie Miller scored 22 points and Travis Best had 18 points and eight assists as visiting Indiana defeated Philadelphia.

Derrick Coleman had 21 points and 12 rebounds for Philadelphia, which played without starting guard Allen Iverson, who is out with a separated left shoulder.

Rookie Eric Dampier had 15 points and 10 rebounds for the Pacers, both season-highs.

The Pacers held a 84-79 edge with 8:15 remaining, then went on an 11-5 run to take a 95-84 lead on a jumper by Best with 3:39 to play. Philadelphia didn't threaten from that point on.

Hornets 93, Knicks 86

Anthony Mason and Vlade Divac overshadowed Larry Johnson's homecoming by helping host Charlotte snap a four-game losing skid.

Mason, acquired in the July deal that sent Johnson to New York, had 20 points, five rebounds and four assists against his former team. He also helped get Johnson in early foul trouble on the way to the Knicks' first loss in six road games.

Divac had 17 of his 23 points in the second half for his highest point total of the season. He also added 13 rebounds as the Hornets defeated the Knicks for the 10th time in 13 games.

Patrick Ewing had 18 points for the Knicks, who led by 13 just before the midway point of the third quarter but turned it over 10 times in the fourth.

Clippers 93, Spurs 81

Loy Vaught led a balanced attack

with a season-high 20 points and near-perfect shooting as Los Angeles snapped its 14-game losing streak in San Antonio.

The Clippers, who avoided the 1,000th loss of coach Bill Fitch's career, won on the Spurs' home court for the first time since a 115-103 victory on March 3, 1989, when David Robinson was a rookie.

The Spurs (2-8) continued the worst start in franchise history, including six losses in seven games at home.

Vaught, who came into the game shooting just 31 percent, finished 8-of-9 from the field and 4-of-5 from the line. Stanley Roberts had 12 points and Rodney Rogers added 10 for the Clippers, who are 4-1 on the road.

Jazz 113, Lakers 97

Karl Malone hit all eight of his third-quarter shots and scored 20 points in the lopsided period as visiting Utah won its fourth straight game.

Malone finished with 37 points on 14-of-21 shooting.

Utah's defense, which has held every opponent under 100 points this season, limited Shaquille O'Neal to 12 points over the final three quarters after he scored 14 in the opening period.

John Stockton had 16 points and 13 assists for the Jazz.

Nick Van Exel added 20 points and O'Neal had 15 rebounds for the Lakers, whose three-game winning streak came to an end.

Heat 94, Grizzlies 75

Isaac Austin scored a season-high 17 points and visiting Miami held Vancouver to 30 points in the second half.

Tim Hardaway made five 3-pointers and finished with 19 points and Dan Majerle added four 3-pointers and 16 points as Miami won its third straight game.

The Grizzlies lost their fourth straight despite 16 points and 10 rebounds from Bryant Reeves.

to Dane Thomas Bjorn who shot 67, although some of the best golf came from Scottish World Cup debutant Paul Lawrie. He had four birdies on the back nine for a 69.

With Andrew Coltart shooting a 70, Scotland ended the day in third place on five under with Argentina and China tied for fourth place on two under.

Heavy rain had delayed the start by three hours, suiting the long hitting South Africans.

betar aiming to increase league lead

DEREK FATTAL

Premier League side Sunderland, Harazi impressed Sunderland manager Peter Reid, particularly with his sharpness around goal, to the extent that the North-Eastern club has formally opened transfer negotiations with the Jerusalem management.

While Harazi is keen to test his skills in Europe he remains aware that his move is by no means cut and dried, and has pledged his full loyalty to Betar's cause until the matter of his transfer is finally resolved.

Hapoel Petah Tikva will be keen on exacting revenge for their first defeat of the season at home to Bnei Yehuda tomorrow. Nevertheless the Hapoel Quarter fans might sleep a little easier tonight in the knowledge that their side has not lost an away match this season.

Current champions Maccabi Tel Aviv need to get their act together on the road to Hapoel

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Miami	7	4	.636	1 1/2
Philadelphia	4	6	.400	3 1/2
Washington	4	6	.400	3 1/2
Boston	2	7	.222	5
New Jersey	1	5	.167	4 1/2

Central Division

W	L	Pct	GB	
Chicago	11	0	1.000	
Detroit	8	1	.889	1/2
Cleveland	7	3	.700	3/2
Milwaukee	6	4	.600	4 1/2
Atlanta	6	4	.600	4 1/2
Brooklyn	4	6	.400	6
Indiana	3	8	.333	7
Toronto	3	8	.333	7

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Midwest Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Houston	8	1	.889	
Utah	6	2	.750	2
Minnesota	4	5	.444	4 1/2
Denver	4	7	.364	5 1/2
Dallas	2	7	.222	7
San Antonio	2	6	.200	7
Vancouver	1	11	.083	9

Pacific Division

W	L	Pct	GB	
Seattle	10	2	.833	
L.A. Lakers	6	4	.600	2
L.A. Clippers	6	4	.600	2
Portland	5	5	.500	3
Sacramento	4	7	.364	4
Golden State	3	7	.300	5
Phoenix	0	10	.000	9

WEDNESDAY'S NBA RESULTS:
Detroit 108, Boston 83
Indiana 103, Philadelphia 92
Seattle 115, Washington 110, 2OT
Charlotte 93, New York 86
L.A. Clippers 93, San Antonio 81
Miami 94, Vancouver 75
Utah 113, L.A. Lakers 97
Chicago 113, Phoenix 99

Els and Westner set the pace on home turf

SOMERSET WEST, South Africa (Reuters) - Ernie Els and Wayne Westner set the pace on home soil on the opening day of the World Cup of Golf yesterday.

Els and Westner each shot 68s to finish the rain-delayed first day on eight under par - two shots clear of second-placed Denmark.

Defending champions the United States had a disappointing day, with Tom Lehman and Steve Jones shooting 73s.

Low round of the day belonged

Symcox, de Villiers rescue South Africa

AHMEDABAD, India (Reuters) - Tailenders Pat Symcox and Fanie de Villiers rescued South Africa with a half-century stand after they collapsed against India's spin trio in the first Test yesterday.

Coming together with South Africa reeling at 119 for seven in reply to India's first innings of 223, Symcox and de Villiers put on 63 for the eighth wicket to lead their side to 202 for eight at the close on the second day.

Fine bowling by left-arm spinner Sunil Joshi and leg-spinners Anil Kumble and Narendra Hirwani, allied to two dubious umpiring decisions, raised Indian hopes of a useful first innings lead.

SPORTS BRIEFS

QPR signs Spencer from Chelsea
Scotland striker John Spencer joined London side Queens Park Rangers from neighbours Chelsea for 2.5 million pounds. Spencer was Chelsea's top scorer with 13 Premier League goals last season but has since lost his place to Italy's Gianluca Vialli, who joined Rotherham's side in the summer.

The arrival of Vialli's compatriot Gianfranco Zola has increased the pressure for first team places, prompting Spencer to move to first division QPR. *Reuters*

Olajuwon to return to court in under a week
Houston Rockets center Hakeem Olajuwon left the hospital yesterday after doctors said his heartbeat had returned to normal and his prognosis was good.

But Olajuwon's doctor told Reuters the 33-year-old superstar will carry a credit-card sized heart monitor, allowing physicians to instantly observe his heartbeat from anywhere in the world.

Olajuwon, 33, was sent to Methodist Hospital, one of the United States' leading heart treatment centers, after suffering the heart problem during halftime of a game with the Minnesota Timberwolves.

Olajuwon would begin supervised workouts today, but would not play in a game for at least five days, team officials said. *Reuters*

NHL SCOREBOARD

WEDNESDAY'S NHL RESULTS: Hartford 3, Montreal 1; Florida 4, Los Angeles 1; Colorado 6, Phoenix 0; Dallas 3, Calgary 1; N.Y. Islanders 2, Anaheim 2, tie.

EASTERN CONFERENCE					WESTERN CONFERENCE								
Atlantic Division					Central Division								
W	L	T	Pts	GF GA	W	L	T	Pts	GF GA				
Florida	12	3	5	29	65	41	Dallas	14	9	1	29	63	50
New Jersey	11	8	1	23	46	43	Detroit	11	7	3	25	57	41
Washington	10	9	1	21	57	55	Chicago	10	9	3	23	58	55
Philadelphia	10	10	1	21	56	58	St. Louis	11	10	0	22	57	64
N.Y. Rangers	7	11	4	18	71	67	Toronto	9	11	0	19	61	67
Tampa Bay	7	9	2	16	56	60	Phoenix	8	10	3	15	43	58
N.Y. Islanders	4	8	7	15	47	57							
Northeast Division					Pacific Division								
Hartford	10	5	3	23	55	50	Colorado	14	5	4	32	88	48
Boston	7	7	4	16	53	58	Los Angeles	9	9	3	21	59	66
Buffalo	8	10	1	17	50	58	Vancouver	10	9	0	20	54	55
Montreal	7	11	1	17	52	52	Calgary	8	10	2	20	55	51
Ottawa	6	9	5	17	52	57	Edmonton	9	11	1	18	71	70
Pittsburgh	6	12	1	13	55	73	San Jose	7	10	4	19	57	68
							Anaheim	4	13	4	12	58	79

